

# Grande Voiture Du Michigan Constitution

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# Constitution

## Grande Voiture du Michigan

### 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, 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 and 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

#### Nomenclature

**Section 1. Name of Organization.** The name of this organization is the Grande Voiture du Michigan, La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux.

**Section 2. Voyageur Militaire.** A member of this organization is called a Voyageur Militaire.

**Section 3. Prisonniers de Guerre.** Persons eligible to membership are called Prisonniers de Guerre or P. G..

**Section 4. Voiture Locale.** A local organization is called Voiture Locale.

**Section 5. Promenades.** A meeting of a Grande Voiture is called a Grande Promenade; and of a Voiture Locale, a promenade locale.

**Section 6. Grande Voiture Officers.** A Grand Chef de Gare (commander), Grand Chef de Train (vice-commander), Grand Conducteur (master of ceremonies), Grand Commissaire Intendant (treasure), Grand Correspondant (adjutant), Grand Avocat (judge advocate), Grand Garde de la Porte (sergeant-at-arms), and Commis Voyageur (property man).

**Section 7. Cheminots.** The Grande Executive Committee is called a Grands Cheminots, and members thereof a Grand Cheminot; and a Local Voiture Executive Committee is called a Cheminots Locales, and a member thereof a Cheminot Locale.

### Article II

#### Nature and Objects

**Section 1. Nature of Organization.** La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux is a civilian organization without rank or distinction between its members; and is not-political.

**Section 2. Objects of Organization.** The object of La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux are:

- (a) To honor, through membership, those veterans who proved themselves worthy of such honor.
- (b) Through fraternalism to bind ourselves in close ties afforded by our common service in the Armed Forces of our Country.

## Article III

### Organization

**Section 1. Organization.** La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux shall be organized into:

- (a) A Voiture Nationale (national).
- (b) A Grande Voiture (state).
- (c) Voiture Locales (local).

**Section 2. Headquarters.** The headquarters of the Grande Voiture du Michigan shall be located in the State of Michigan as designated by the Grand Chef de Gare during his/hers term of office.

**Section 3. Approval of Local Constitutions.** The constitutions of Voiture Locales, amendment and alterations thereof, are not binding and are without effect unless and until the same have been approved in writing by the Avocat Nationale, filed by him/her with the Correspondant Nationale. All constitutions and amendment and alterations thereof, shall be certified by the Correspondant of the Voiture Locale, as provided by Section 6, Article XII, of this Constitution. Upon the Avocat Nationale making his/hers decision, he/she shall forward both copies, and all correspondence and papers dealing therewith, to the Correspondant Nationale. The Correspondant Nationale shall file one copy of said constitution to, and shall certify the other copy of said constitution to the Grande Voiture or Voiture Locale, as the case may be, together with notice of final action and the decision of the Avocat Nationale; and he/she shall send an information copy of his/hers notice to the Grand Avocat.

## Article IV

### Eligibility

**Section 1. Who May Become Members.** No person other than members of the American Legion and all Honorably Discharged Veterans and all Military Personnel currently serving our country may become members.

- (a) No Grande Voiture or Voiture Locale, may prescribe or establish any eligibility qualifications for membership in La Societe which are in conflict with the constitution of Voiture Nationale

## Article V

### Membership and Dues

**Section 1. Honorary Members Forbidden.** There is but one form of membership in La Societe, namely, active membership; and the election of honorary members is forbidden.

**Section 2. Membership in One Voiture Only.** No member may belong to more than one Voiture Locale, nor change his/hers membership from one Voiture Locale to another except as in this constitution is provided.

**Section 3. Limitation of Membership is Forbidden.** Numerical limitation of membership by any Grande Voiture of Voiture Locale is forbidden.

**Section 4. Members Qualifications.**

- (a) Each Voiture Locale shall be the judge of its own members and petitioners for membership, subject to the provisions of this Grande Voiture constitution.
- (b) Voting on petition for membership, a person nominated for membership in La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux who meets the qualifications as set forth in Section 6 of this Article, shall be elected at a regular or special Promenade called for that purpose, upon an affirmative vote of at least a simple majority of those members present voting. Voting

may be viva voce (voice), ballot or show of hands. The Voiture Locale may provide in its constitution that the necessary vote be a 2/3 majority of those members present and voting, rather than a simple majority.

**Section 5. Waiver of Jurisdiction.** Upon written request of any Voiture Locale to a Voiture Locale having jurisdiction over a person eligible for membership, the latter may waive jurisdiction of the eligible person; and if it does the former Voiture Locale may, within six months of the date of granting a waiver but not afterwards, unless further request be made and granted, initiate the eligible person, and he/she shall become a member of the Voiture Locale into which he/she is initiated.

**Section 6. Nomination for Membership.** Membership may be granted by invitation only to any eligible person upon the nomination by a Voyageur Militaire and executed on the form furnished by Voiture Nationale showing:

- (a) That he/she has rendered service to our Country entitling him/her to the honor of membership in La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux.
- (b) That his/hers character and reputation are good, and that he/she has rendered the service aforesaid, which must be shown by an endorsement to that effect bearing the signature of two or more members of the Voiture Locale to which the nomination is addressed.
- (c) That he/she has not previously been rejected for membership, and if he/she has, the date of rejection and the number and location of the Voiture Locale by which he/she was rejected.
- (d) That, if he/she was formerly a member of La Societe, the number and location of the Voiture Locale to which he/she belonged, and the reason for his/hers withdrawal.
- (e) That, if he/she withdrew from membership under Section 9 of this Article, the certificate required by said Section is attached to his/hers nomination.

**Section 7. Removal of Membership.** Any member who removes his/hers residence to the territorial jurisdiction of a Voiture Locale other than that which he/she is a member shall be entitled upon request to a certificate from the Voiture Locale of which he/she is a member, which must be furnished his/hers within thirty days from the date of his/hers request therefore, setting forth his/hers membership therein and the duration thereof; and upon the presentation thereof within two years to the Voiture Locale in whose territorial jurisdiction he/she then resides, and this production of satisfactory evidence that he/she has continued the payment of his/hers dues in La Societe, may be admitted into membership in such Voiture Locale under such terms as may be prescribed by such Voiture Locale.

**Section 8. Transfer of Membership Within Jurisdiction.** In any territorial jurisdiction in which there are, or may hereafter be, two or more Voiture Locales, a member desiring to transfer his/hers membership from one to another of said Voitures, shall be entitled upon request, to a certificate from the Voiture Locale of which he/she is a member, which must be furnished him/her within thirty days from the date of his/hers request therefore, setting forth his/hers membership therein and the duration thereof; and upon presentation thereof within one year to the Voiture Locale in said jurisdiction in which he/she desires membership, and production of satisfactory evidence that he/she has continued the payment of his/hers dues in La Societe, may be admitted into membership in the Voiture Locale in which he/she desires membership upon such terms as said Voiture Locale may prescribe

**Section 9. Surrender of Membership.** A member of La Societe in good standing shall be entitled upon request, and upon surrender of his/hers membership card, to withdraw from membership, and shall be entitled to a certificate, to be issued by the Correspondant of the Voiture Locale of which he/she is a member, setting forth the duration of his/hers membership and that he/she has honorably withdrawn therefrom, and shall no longer be a member of La Societe, and shall not be readmitted to membership except upon nomination in accordance with Section 6 of this Article.

**Section 10. Subsequent Nomination of Rejected.** A Voiture Locale may not entertain the nomination for membership of any person rejected by it or any other Voiture Locale until expiration of six months from the date of rejection.

**Section 11. Procedure Where Nominee Formerly Rejected or Formerly.** a Member, whenever it shall appear from the nomination of a person desiring membership, or from other information that a nominee has been previously rejected for membership, has been expelled or withdrawn from membership in some Voiture Locale other than the one nominated, his/hers nomination shall not be acted upon until a written statement from the Voiture Locale which he/she withdrew, was rejected or expelled him/her as to his/hers character, reputation and such statement shall be read in open Promenade Locale before his/hers nomination is acted upon; provided, if such statement be not received within sixty days from the date of request therefore, or if the Voiture Locale from which the statement is sought is no longer in existence, the nomination may be acted upon without such statement.

**Section 12. Dues.** Dues shall be payable to Voiture Nationale in advance of October 20 each year, and payment thereof constitutes the payer a member in good standing until the end of the following calendar year. Dues paid prior to September of any year on account of new members shall be considered as for the current year and those paid on or after September 1 of any year on account of new members shall be considered for the then ensuing year.

**Section 13. Penalties for Non-Payment of Dues.** Any member who shall fail to pay his/hers dues for the current year on or before March 31 shall not be permitted to attend any Promenade until such dues have been paid; and any member who shall be in arrears one year in payment of his/hers dues shall stand suspended and notice to that effect shall be given to him/her by the Correspondant of his/hers Voiture Locale by certified mail within one month from the date of the mailing of said notice to pay the arrears, and such reinstatement fees as may be required by the Grande Voiture or Voiture Locale, he/she shall stand expelled and may not be readmitted to membership except upon nomination in accordance with Section 6 of this Article.

**Section 14. Expulsion for Two Years Delinquency.** Any member who fails for two years to pay his/hers dues shall, as of December 31 of the second year and without requirement of the notice provided for in Section 14 of this Article, stands expelled; and may not be readmitted to membership except upon nomination, in accordance with Section 6 of this Article.

**Section 15. Membership Cards.** Each member shall be entitled to a membership card, to be issued annually, and to be in such form as the Cheminots Nationales shall from time to time prescribe; provided, no membership card shall be issued to a new member unless and until he/she shall have taken the obligation required by the Ritual of La Societe; and no membership card shall be issued to any member except upon full payment of his/hers dues and exhibition of satisfactory evidence that he/she has paid his/hers dues.

## Article VI

### Grande Promenade

**Section 1. Legislative Body – Meetings.** The Legislative body of La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux shall be the Grande Promenade to be held at the time and place designated by the Time and Place Committee.

**Section 2. Delegates.** In the Grande Promenade, every Voiture Locale shall be entitled to 5 delegates and 5 alternates for the first 100 members or fraction thereof, and 1 additional delegate and 1 alternate for each additional 50 members or major fraction thereof; provided that all current indebtedness and per-capita tax shall have been received by the Grand Commissaire Intendant thirty days prior to such Grande Promenade and no Voiture Locale shall be allowed representation until all monies owing to the Grande Voiture have been paid; provided, further, that Voitures organized during this thirty day period may apply to the Credentials Committee for a voice and vote, who will decide each case on its merits.

**Section 3. Who May Vote.** Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote, alternates shall have all the privileges of delegates, except, that of voting, unless representing an absent delegate. All elected Grand Officers, Grands Cheminots, and the Cheminot Nationale shall be entitled to vote as delegates at the Grande Promenade, during his/hers year of service as such officer, if present in person; provided, however that no Voyageur shall be entitled to cast more than one vote. All Grand Chefs Passe. While in good standing in their respective Voiture

Locales, shall be members for life of the Grands Cheminots, without vote, and shall also be life delegates to all Grande Promenades of La Societe with a vote to be exercised only when present in person; and the Credentials Committee shall be required to report all such Chef de Gares Passe.

**Section 4. Registration.** All delegates, alternates and Voyagers attending the Grande Promenade shall be required to register at such Grande Promenade and show such credentials before being admitted to any sessions of the Grande Promenade or any other activities promoted in connection therewith.

**Section 5. Quorum.** A Quorum of the Grande Promenade shall consist of a majority of the Voiture Locales represented in whole or in part by duly authorized delegates.

**Section 6. Delegates to Promenade Nationale.**

- (a) In Promenade Nationale, each Grande Voiture shall be entitled to 5 delegates and 5 alternates. The Grand Chef de Gare and incoming Correspondant, the outgoing Grand Chef de Gare and the outgoing Grand Correspondant, and the current Cheminot Nationale will be the delegates to Promenade Nationale. The Grand Chef de Train, Grand Conducteur, Grand Gard de La Porte, Grand Lampiste, and Alternate Cheminot Nationale will be the 5 alternates to Promenade Nationale. If one of the above persons is holding two offices, (example, incoming Grand Correspondant and out going grand Correspondant) or is unable to attend the Promenade sessions the delegate position will be filled by one of the alternates, starting with the Grand Chef de Train except the Alternate Cheminot Nationale will replace the Cheminot Nationale. Any unfilled alternate positions will be filled by Grand Chef de Gares Passe, stating with the most resent. The Grand Chef de Gare, and the Grand Correspondant, retiring, shall serve as the Chairman and Secretary of the Grande Voiture delegation to the Promenade Nationale each year.
- (b) Voiture Locales shall be entitled to 1 delegate and 1 alternate for its first 50 members and 1 additional delegate and 1 alternate for each additional 50 members or major fraction thereof, and such membership shall be calculated as of the date which is thirty days prior to the convening of Promenade Nationale.
- (c) Only the delegates specified in Section 6(a) of this Article will receive per-diem. They must be present and attend all Promenade Nationale sessions. The amount of per-diem will be set by the recommendations of the Finance Committee and approved at a Grande Promenade.

**Section 7. Special Grande Promenades.** Special Grande Promenades are prohibited. The government and administration of the affairs of the Grande Voiture between Grande promenades shall be transacted by the Grands Cheminots, but nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit conferences or other meetings by Voyageurs of the Grande Voiture at which legislative business is not transacted.

## Article VII

### Grande Voiture Districts

**Section 1. Districts.** The Grande Voiture du Michigan shall be divided into fifteen (15) districts composed of the Counties as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> District – Wayne and Sub-wayne
- 2<sup>nd</sup> District – Jackson, Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe
- 3<sup>rd</sup> District – Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Eaton, Hillsdale and Branch
- 4<sup>th</sup> District – Berrien, St. Joseph, Cass, VanBuren, Alegane and Barry
- 5<sup>th</sup> District – Kent and Ottawa
- 6<sup>th</sup> District – Ingham, Genesee and Livingston
- 7<sup>th</sup> District – St. Clair, Macomb, Lapeer, Tuscola, Sanilac and Huron

- 8<sup>th</sup> District – Saginaw, Shiawassee, Clinton, Ionia, Montcalm and Gratiot
- 9<sup>th</sup> District – Grand Traverse, Muskegon, Wexford, Missaukee, Manistee, Oceana, Newaygo, Lake, Benzie and Leelanau
- 10<sup>th</sup> District – Bay, Midland, Mecosta, Isabella, Oceaola, Clare and Gladwin
- 11<sup>th</sup> District – Delta, Menominee, Luce, Schoolcraft, Chippewa, Mackinac and Alger
- 12<sup>th</sup> District – Gogebic, Marquette, Houghton, Ontonagon, Keweenaw, Barga, Iron and Dickinson
- 13<sup>th</sup> District – Oakland
- 14<sup>th</sup> District – Preaque, Isle, Montmorency, Alpena, Oscoda, Alcona, Ogemaw, Iosco and Arenac
- 15<sup>th</sup> District – Emmet, Cheyboygan, Charlevoix, Atrim, Otsego, Kalkaska, Crawford and Roscommon

## **Article VIII**

### **Grande Voiture Officers**

**Section 1. Officers.** The officers of the Grande Voiture du Michigan shall be as follows: Grand Chef de Gare – Grand Chef de Trains (lower and upper peninsula) – Grand Correspondant – Grand Commissaire Intendant – Grand Avocat – Grand Conducteur – Grand Garde de la Porte – Grand Commis Voyageur – Grand Historien – Grand Lampiste – Grand Drapeu – Grand Medicin – Grand Aumonier – Grand L'Editeur – Grand Photographe – 15 Grands Cheminots – 15 Sous Grands Cheminots – a Cheminot Nationale and Alternate Cheminot Nationale.

**Section 2. Elective Officers.** The Grande Voiture officers elected by the Grande Promenade shall be as follows: Grand Chef de Gare – Grand Chef de Train (upper and lower) – Grand Commissaire Intendant – Grand Conducteur – Grand garde la Porte – Grand Lampiste – Cheminot Nationale and Alternate Cheminot Nationale.

- (a) All other Grande Voiture officers and directeurs will be appointed by and to serve at the will of the Grand Chef de Gare subject to the approval of the Grands Cheminots.
- (b) The Grand Chef de Train of each peninsula shall be nominated and elected only by the delegates of their respective peninsula. Ratification shall be by the Grande Promenade.
- (c) One Grand Cheminot and one Sous Cheminot from each District shall be elected by their District prior to the annual Grande Promenade. The Grand Cheminot so elected shall take office upon their installation at the Grande Promenade and shall serve until their successor shall be installed at the next Promenade.

**Section 3. Term of Office.** All Grande Officers shall hold office for a term of one year, except for the Grand Commissaire Intendant who shall hold officer for a term of three years, or until their successor shall be elected and installed. The Grande Officers shall take office immediately after installation; except, that the Voyageurs elected to the offices of Cheminot Nationale and Sous Cheminot Nationale shall take office immediately upon adjournment of Promenade Nationale at which their predecessors served as Cheminot and Sous Cheminot Nationale and shall hold office until their successors shall be installed at Promenade Nationale,

**Section 4. Vacancies.** In the case of a vacancy in the office of the Grand Chef de Gare, the Grand Chef de Train of the peninsula from whence the Grand Chef de Gare came, shall succeed to the office of Grand Chef de Gare as soon as he/she has been sworn in by the Grand Avocat. Should further vacancy occur in the office it shall be filled by the other original Grand Chef de Train. Vacancies occurring in any other Grande offices between Grande Promenades shall be filled by the Executive Committee of the Grands Cheminots, unless otherwise provided for.

**Section 5. Officers Bonded.** Each officer of the Grande Voiture having custody or possession of funds of the Grande Voiture shall give bond in such sum and with such surety as the Grands Cheminots from time to time shall direct, conditioned for the faithful discharge of the

duties of his/hers office and the delivery to his/hers successor of all funds that are or should be in his/hers possession.

## Article IX

### Duties of Officers and Committees

**Section 1. Grand Chef de Gare.** The Grand Chef de Gare is the Chief Executive Officer of the Grande Voiture du Michigan. He/she shall preside at all Grande Promenades and meetings of the Grands Cheminots. He/she shall be ex-officio member of all committees. He/she shall, except, as is otherwise in this constitution provided, appoint and remove the members of all committees of the Grande Voiture. He/she shall perform such other duties as are necessary, proper and consistent with his/hers office.

**Section 2. Grand Chef de Trains.** The Grand Chef de Train shall perform the duties of the Grand Chef de Gare in their respective districts in his/hers absence or in the event of his inability to perform such duties.

**Section 3. Grand Commissaire Intendant.** The Grand Commissaire Intendant is the chief financial officer of the Grande Voiture and guardian of the treasury and proctor of all accounts of the Grande Voiture committees. He/she shall keep accurate books of all accounts showing all accounts showing all receipts and disbursements. He/she shall report thereon at each Grande Promenade and Grands Cheminots. He/she shall pay all bills when audited and approved by the Grand Correspondant. Checks will be signed by the Grand Correspondant and counter signed by the Grand Commissaire Intendant. He/she shall keep all canceled checks in his/hers possession for a period of six years.

**Section 4. Grand Conducteur.** The Grand Conducteur is the chief ritualistic and initiatory officer. He/she shall be responsible for the adherence to the Ritual and manual of Ceremonies in the Grande Voiture and the Voiture Locales. He/she is empowered to stop or restrict any violations.

**Section 5. Grand Correspondant.** The Grand Correspondant is the secretary of the Grande Voiture and the Grands Cheminots. He/she shall keep a true and accurate record of all the proceedings of said bodies; shall conduct their correspondence; and keep a correct list of officers of the Grande Voiture and Voiture Locales. He/she receive all monies due the Grande Voiture and deposit the same in the name of the Grande Voiture du Michigan. He/she shall keep a true and accurate account of all financial transactions and render a monthly statement of such transactions to the Grand Commissaire Intendant. He/she shall audit and approve for payment all proper bills to be paid and prepare the necessary warrants for their payment. He/she shall perform such other duties as may be imposed on him/her by the Grand Chef de Gare.

**Section 6. Grand Commis Voyageur.** The Grand Commis Voyageur is in charge and responsible for the properties of the Grande Voiture not otherwise delegated to other officers or committees.

**Section 7. Grand Drapeu.** The Grand Drapeu is the color bearer and shall advance retire or display the colors whenever the occasion dictates. The Grand Commis Voyageur, keeper of the properties, shall serve with the Grand Drapeu in any ceremonies.

**Section 8. Grand Lampiste.** Shall be the outer guard and is lawfully entitled to receive the password of the order.

**Section 9. Grand Garde de la Porte.** The Garde de la Porte is the sergeant-at-arms and shall act as such at all Grande Promenades and if so directed by the Grand Chef de Gare at all meetings of the Grands Cheminots.

**Section 10. Grand Historien.** The Grand Historien shall collect for permanent preservation all matters of interest to the members of the Grande Voiture to posterity; and shall annually submit to the Grand Chef de Gare a history of his/hers term of office.

**Section 11. Grand Avocat.** The Grand Avocat shall advise the Grand Officers by interpreting the Grande Constitution. He/she shall determine the constitutionality of Voiture Locales and their constitutions and shall perform such other duties as are usually incidental to

the office. The Grand Correspondant shall put into effect the rulings of the Grand Avocat immediately upon receipt of such rulings.

**Section 12. Grand Aumonier.** The Grand Aumonier is the Chaplain of the Grande Voiture; and shall act as such at the Grande Promenades and upon such other occasions at the request of the Grand Chef de Gare.

**Section 13. Grand Medicin.** The Grand Medicin will supervise the duties of the Mediciens Locale.

**Section 14. Grand L'Editeur.** The Grand L'Editeur shall gather news and pictures, edit them respect to suitability and publish a news organ. He/She shall maintain the best possible relationship with the press, radio and TV media and exert his/hers efforts to present the proper image of La Societe and its programs. His/Hers real purpose is to enhance the public relations of La Societe. In the absence of an official publication, he/she would be properly called "Publiciste."

**Section 15. Grand Photographe.** The Grand Photographe shall take photographs of all special events and present them to the Historien to become a part of the Grande Voiture history.

## Article X

### Grands Cheminots

**Section 1. Members.** The Grands Cheminots shall consist of the following officers; Grand Chef de Gare – Grand Chefs de Train (2) – Grand Correspondant – Grand Commissaire Intendant – Grand Avocat – Cheminot Nationale and one Grand Cheminot from each of the 15 Districts as herein before provided.

**Section 2. Vacancies.** In the event of the death, resignation or other disability of any District Grand Cheminot, his/hers Sous shall become the Grand Cheminot for the District for the unexpired term. Should a further vacancy occur in the office it shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Chef de Gare.

**Section 3. Administration Between Grande Promenades.** Between Grande Promenades the administration and judicial power shall be vested in the Grands Cheminots, and shall be further empowered to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be required for the next Grande Promenade.

**Section 4. Meetings.** The Grands Cheminots shall meet at the time and place set by the Grande Voiture Time and Place Committee or at the call of the Grand Chef de Gare. The Grand Chef de Gare shall also call a meeting upon written request of a majority of the members of the Grands Cheminots, notice shall be given at least one week prior to such meeting.

**Section 5. Committees.** The Grands Cheminots shall provide for committees on Rules and Regulations, Credentials, organization and such other committees as in their judgment may be necessary.

**Section 6. Quorum.** A majority of the members of the Grands Cheminots shall constitute a quorum of the body.

**Section 7. Duties of District Grands Cheminots.** The Grand Cheminot of each District shall serve as chairmen of his/hers District caucus, and will report District elections to the Grande Promenade. He/she shall supervise the activities of all Voiture Locales in his/hers District and be responsible for proper functioning of the Grande Voiture programs in his/hers District.

**Section 8. Executive Committee of the Grands Cheminots.** There shall be an Executive Committee of the Grands Cheminots consisting of the Grand Chef de Gare – Grand Chefs de Train (2) – Grand Commissaire Intendant – Grand Avocat – Grand Correspondant and three members at large to be appointed by the Grand Chef de Gare with approval of the Grands Cheminots.

**Section 9. Duties of the Executive Committee.** The duties of the Grands Cheminots Executive Committee shall be to meet at such times as necessity may require, other than the Grande Promenade, and when it is neither practicable nor feasible to call a general meeting of the Grands Cheminots to consider matters of interest to La Societe and submit conclusions to the Grands Cheminots for approval or to the Grande Promenade if a meeting of the Grands Cheminots can not be called prior to the Grande Promenade.

## Article XI

### Finance

**Section 1. Finance Committee.** Shall consist of three (3) members who shall be appointed by the Grand Chef de Gare and approved by the Grands Cheminots. The Grand Chef de Gare shall select the chairman and said committee shall elect its own secretary.

- (a) The Finance Committee shall receive requests and recommendations from such officers and committees who are entitled to receive and use funds of the Grande Voiture. After receiving all reports it is the duty of the committee to recommend to the Grande Promenade a proper budget; and between sessions of the Grande Promenade it may enlarge, reallocate or restrict the budget as exigencies require; and from time to time fix and determine the compensation of such officers or committees who may be entitled to funds.

**Section 2. Revenue.** The revenues of the Grande Voiture shall be derived from dues, assessments and sale of merchandise.

**Section 3. Dues.** It is the responsibility of the Finance Committee to determine the need for dues increase and report the need to the Grands Cheminots for their recommendations to the Grande Voiture for approval at the Grande Promenade.

**Section 4. Grande Voiture Funds.** All funds of the Grande Voiture shall be deposited in the name of Grande Voiture du Michigan in such depository as is designated by the Grande Promenade or the Grands Cheminots.

**Section 5. Uniform Accounting System.** The Grande Voiture shall keep its accounts in accordance with a uniform accounting system promulgated by Voiture Nationale.

**Section 6. Inspection of Grande Voiture Records.** The books, records and accounts of the Grande Voiture shall be made available for inspection at any time upon request of the Chef de Chemin de Fer or Commissaire Intendant Nationale.

**Section 7. Initiation Fees and Dues.** The Grande Voiture may by action of the Grande Promenade, prescribe minimum initiation fees and dues to be charged by the Voiture Locales in its jurisdiction.

**Section 8. Compensation for Grand Correspondant.** The finance committee with the approval of the Grands Cheminots may provide adequate compensation for the Grand Correspondant.

**Section 9. Per-Diem.** The amount of the per-diem to be paid each authorized Voyageur shall be determined annually by the Executive Committee prior to the Grande Promenade, Spring and Fall Grands Cheminots meeting.

## Article XII

### Voiture Locales

**Section 1. Organization of Voiture Locales.** Five or more Honorably Discharged Veterans and or Military Personnel currently serving our country may providing there is no Voiture Locale in the County where they reside, make application to Voiture Nationale for a charter as a Voiture Locale for said County; and the Chef de Chemin de Fer and the Correspondant Nationale shall upon receipt of such application properly executed, issue such charter; provided, that if the county be within the jurisdiction of an organized Chartered Grande Voiture such charter shall not be issued without consent and approval of such Grande Voiture; and, provided further, that if there be an existing Voiture Locale or Voiture Locales in such county additional Voiture Locales may be chartered for such County with the consent of existing Voiture Locale or Voiture Locales or, failing such consent, with the approval of the Grande Voiture; and, provided, further, a Grande Voiture may, pending the granting of a Charter to a Voiture Locale, issue a dispensation for its existence until its charter is granted.

**Section 2. Voiture Locale Districts – Joint Jurisdiction.** Two or more counties within the jurisdiction of a Grande Voiture may, by action of the Grande Promenade, be combined into a

Voiture Locale District; and with the consent of the Voiture Locales involved, a Grande Voiture may, by action of the Grande Promenade, give Voiture Locales joint jurisdiction over designated territory..

**Section 3. Ratification of Issued Charters.** All charters heretofore issued to Voiture Locales are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved as the respective dates of the issuance thereof.

**Section 4. Voitures With Less Than 10 Members.** If the membership of any Voiture Locale shall become less than 10, the Correspondant Nationale shall inform the Cheminots Nationales, and the Cheminots Nationales may. In their discretion, suspend or revoke the charter of such Voiture Locale.

**Section 5. Voiture Locale Promenades.** Promenades of a Voiture Locale shall be held at such times and places within its area of jurisdiction as the Voiture Locale shall from time to time determine.

**Section 6. Voiture Locale Constitution.** Each Voiture Locale shall make and adopt a constitution, not in conflict with the constitution of Voiture Nationale or this constitution, and shall forward a copy therein triplicate, certified by the Correspondant, to the Grand Avocat. If and when the Grand Avocat determines that said constitution, any amendments or alterations thereof, is not in conflict with the Grand Voiture Constitution, then the Grand Avocat shall forward the copies thereof in duplicate, with his/hers approval, together with his/hers comments and recommendations, whether it is in conformance with the provisions of the Constitution Nationale, to the Avocat Nationale for approval. The said constitution, any amendments or alterations thereof, shall become effective if and when the Voiture Locale and the Grande Avocat are notified by the Correspondant Nationale of the approval thereof. Voiture Nationale may prescribe a constitution for Voiture Locales who have not complied with the provisions of Section 6, of this Article. After such prescribed constitution has been approved by the Avocat Nationale, the same shall serve as the constitution for each Voiture Locale until each one makes or obtains approval of its own constitution.

**Section 7. Conflicts With Nationale Constitution.** Any of the provisions of a constitution of any Voiture Locale in conflict with this constitution, of the constitution of Voiture Nationale, or any conflict with any amendment hereof, are void and without effect.

**Section 8. Voiture Locale Officers.** The following officers, and such others as the Voiture Locale may determine and whose duties and functions are not in conflict with the officers specifically named, shall be officers of each Voiture Locale: Chef de Gare – one or more Chef de Trains – Commissaire Intendant – Correspondant – Conducteur – one or more Gardes de la Porte – one or more Lampiste and a Commis Voyageur.

**Section 9. Cheminots Locales.** In each Voiture Locale there shall be a Cheminots Locales consisting of the Chef de Gare – Chef de Train – Commissaire Intendant – Correspondant and three members at large, to be selected as provided for in their constitution.

**Section 10. Voiture Locale Funds.** All funds of each Voiture Locale shall be deposited in the name of the Voiture Locale in such depository as is designed by the Promenade Locale or the Cheminots Locales.

**Section 11. Uniform Accounting System.** Each Voiture Locale shall keep its accounts in accordance with a uniform accounting system to be promulgated by Voiture Nationale; and no Financial Officers of a Voiture Locale will be permitted to transact business with this Grande Voiture or Voiture Nationale until the provisions of Sections 12 and 13 of this Article have been complied with.

**Section 12. Officers Bonded.** Each officer of a Voiture Locale having custody or in possession of funds of a Voiture Locale shall give bond in such sum and with such surety as the Cheminots Locales from time to time shall direct, conditioned for the faithful discharge of duties of his/hers office and the delivery to his/hers successor all funds that are or should be in his/hers possession.

**Section 13. Inspection of Voiture Locale Records.** The books, records and accounts of each Voiture Locale shall be made available for inspection at any time upon the request of the Chef de Chemin de Fer, Nationale Commissaire Intendant, Grand Chef de Gare or the Grand Commissaire Intendant.

**Section 14. Rules of Order.** Robert's Revised Rules of Order shall, except, as they maybe in conflict with this constitution, the constitution of Voiture Nationale, the constitution of the Voiture Locale, will govern the proceedings of each Voiture Locale.

## **Article XIII**

### **Discipline and Punishment**

**Section 1. Trial of Grande Voiture Officers.** Any officer, elective or appointive of this Grande Voiture charged with failure to perform the duties of his/hers office, disloyalty, dishonesty or conduct unbecoming a member of La Societe, or with other conduct inimical to the best interest of La Societe, shall be promptly tried by the Grands Cheminots. The charges must be reduced to writing in duplicate, signed by the accuser, sworn by him/her to be true, and filed with the Grand Correspondant; and one of the originals shall be sent to the accused by registered mail at least ten days before the date fixed for the charges before the Grands Cheminots, and the accused may defend in person or by representative. A record of the proceedings before Grands Cheminots shall be kept. If a majority of the Grands Cheminots so vote the charges shall be considered as sustained; and the Grands Cheminots shall suspend or remove the officer, expel him/her from membership or impose such lesser disciplinary punishment as they believe the facts warrant.

- (a) Appeal. Either the accused or the accuser or both may appeal to the Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationales by filling notice of appeal with the Grand Correspondant within ten days after the decision. The person appealing shall within twenty days after the decision, or as soon thereafter as is possible, if the record cannot sooner be completed, will file the record of the proceedings before the Grands Cheminots with the Correspondant Nationale. The Chef de Chemin de Fer shall thereupon promptly call a meeting of the Chef de Chemin de Fer and the Sous Chefs de Chemin de Fer to consider the appeal. Said called meeting may be handled either in the presence of or by certified mail. The appeal will be heard upon the record only, without further evidence of hearing; and the decision of three-fifths of the committee shall be final. The committee may impose the same, greater, lesser punishment or acquit the accused.
- (b) Costs on Appeal. The cost of the record on appeal shall be paid; before the same is filled, by the appellant. In the event the Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationales shall reverse the decision of the Grands Cheminots the appellant, if he/she be the accused, shall be reimbursed for such cost by the Grande Voiture.

**Section 2. Trial of Voiture Local Officers.** Any officer of a Voiture Locale, elective or appointive, charged for failure to perform the duties of his/hers office, disloyalty, dishonesty, conduct unbecoming a member of La Societe or with other conduct inimical to the best interest of La Societe, shall be promptly tried by the Cheminots Locales of his/hers Voiture Locale. The charges must be reduced to writing in duplicate, signed by the accuser, and sworn by him/her to be true, and filed with the Correspondant Locale; and one of the original copies shall be sent by the Correspondant Locale to the accused, at his/hers last known address, by registered mail at least five days before the date fixed for the trial. The accuser, or his/hers representative, shall prosecute the charges before the Cheminots Locales, and the accused may defend in person or by representative. A record of the proceeding before the Cheminots Locales shall be kept. If a majority of the Cheminots Locales so vote the charges shall be considered as sustained; and the Cheminots Locales shall suspend, remove, expel, him/her from membership or impose such lesser disciplinary punishment as they believe the facts warrant.

- (a) Appeal. Either the accused or the accuser or both may appeal to the Grands Cheminots by filling notice of appeal with the Correspondant Locale within ten days after the decision, the person appealing shall within twenty days after the decision, or soon thereafter as is possible if the record cannot be completed, file the record of the proceedings before the Cheminots Locales with the Grande Correspondant. The Grand Chef de Gare shall refer the same to a regular meeting of the Grands

Cheminots to consider the appeal. The appeal will be heard upon the record only, without further evidence of hearing; and the decision of a majority of the Grands Cheminots in the presence of a quorum; shall be final. The Grands Cheminots may impose the same, greater, lesser punishment or acquit the accused.

- (b) Costs on Appeal. The cost of the record on appeal shall be paid; before the same is filled, by the appellant. In the event the Grands Cheminots shall reverse the decision of the Cheminots Locales, the appellant, if he/she be the accused, shall be reimbursed for such cost by the Voiture Locale.

**Section 3. Trial of Voyageurs Militaires.** Any Voyageurs Militaire charged with, disloyalty, dishonesty, neglect of duty, obtaining membership under false pretenses, conduct unbecoming a member of La Societe or with other conduct inimical to the best interest of La Societe, shall be promptly tried by the Cheminots Locales of his/hers Voiture Locale. The charges must be reduced to writing in duplicate, signed by the accuser, and sworn by him/her to be true, and filed with the Correspondant Locale; and one of the original copies shall be sent by the Correspondant Locale to the accused, at his/hers last known address, by registered mail at least five days before the date fixed for the trial. The accuser, or his/hers representative, shall prosecute the charges before the Cheminots Locales, and the accused may defend in person or by representative. A record of the proceeding before the Cheminots Locales shall be kept. If a majority of the Cheminots Locales so vote the charges shall be considered as sustained; and the Cheminots Locales shall suspend, remove, expel, him/her from membership or impose such lesser disciplinary punishment as they believe the facts warrant.

- (a) Appeal. Either the accused or the accuser or both may appeal to the Grands Cheminots by filling notice of appeal with the Correspondant Locale within ten days after the decision, the person appealing shall within twenty days after the decision, or soon thereafter as is possible if the record cannot be completed, file the record of the proceedings before the Cheminots Locales with the Grande Correspondant. The Grand Chef de Gare shall refer the same to a regular meeting of the Grands Cheminots to consider the appeal. The appeal will be heard upon the record only, without further evidence of hearing; and the decision of a majority of the Grands Cheminots in the presence of a quorum; shall be final. The Grands Cheminots may impose the same, greater, lesser punishment or acquit the accused.
- (b) Costs on Appeal. The cost of the record on appeal shall be paid; before the same is filled, by the appellant. In the event the Grands Cheminots shall reverse the decision of the Cheminots Locales. The appellant, if he/she be the accused, shall be reimbursed for such cost by the Voiture Locale

**Section 4. Notice Where Officer Disqualified.** Whenever, by any of the provisions of this Article, notice is required to be sent or given by a named officer, and said officer shall himself be the accused, the notice shall be sent or given by a Voyageur Militaire designated by the Chef de Chemin de Fer, The Grand Chef de Gare or the Chef de Gare, as the case may be.

**Section 5. Action Where Officer Disqualified.** Whenever, by any of the provisions of this Article, notice is required to be taken by the Grand Chef de Gare or the Chef de Gare, and one of these officers is himself the accused the required option shall be taken by the Correspondant Nationale, Grand Correspondant or Correspondant Locale, as the case may be.

**Section 6. Revocation of Charters.** The charters of the Grande Voiture and Voiture Locales may be suspended or revoked for conduct inimical to the best interest of La Societe, in the discretion of the Chef de Chemin de Fer and approval of the Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationales. Upon the revocation or cancellation of the charter of a Voiture Locale it shall immediately cease operation and the Grands Cheminots are authorized, empowered and directed to take possession, custody, ownership and control of the properties of said Voiture Locale, including the charter, ceremonies, books of record, Voiture papers, real and personal property; however, that nothing herein shall be construed as requiring any Grande Voiture to take over or assume any financial obligations as to such property.

## Article XIV

### Miscellaneous Provisions

**Section 1. Improper Conduct.** No improper entertainment shall be permitted at any Promenade Nationale, Grande or Locale; nor shall any intoxicating liquors be served or consumed during such Promenade; nor shall conduct tending to disrupt the Promenade be tolerated; nor any Voyageur Militaire be admitted to such Promenade or be permitted to remain therein if he/she persists in improper or disorderly conduct.

**Section 2. Duties of The Grand Chef de Gare.** It shall be the duty of the Grand Chef de Gare to recommend the suspension or revocation of the charter of any Voiture Locale in his/hers jurisdiction which permits or tolerates drunkenness, vulgarity, obscenity or lewdness at Promenades, and fails to adhere to the Ritual and Manual of Ceremonies during initiatory work or other functions whatsoever held or sponsored by a Voiture Locale or Grande Voiture in the name of La Societe.

**Section 3. Service as Officer or Committee Member.** No person, not a member in good standing, shall be elected or appointed to or hold office in or serve on any committee of Voiture Nationale, Grande Voiture or Voiture Locale.

(a) Only one Voyageur from any Voiture Locale may serve in the Grande Voiture elective line of officers at any one time.

(b) Any Voyageur Militaire must have served as a Chef de Gare Locale before he/she can become a candidate for election to an office in the Grande Voiture line of officers.

**Section 4. Regulation of Locomotives, Box Cars and Like Equipment at Promenade Nationales or Grande Promenades.** Locomotives, box cars or like equipment upon which the name or emblem of La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, or the name of a Voiture Locale or Grande Voiture of said La Societe, appears, may be driven, towed, used or occupied, parked on the streets or any other place or upon private property where they may be seen from a street or public place in the city or town where a Promenade Nationale or a Grande Promenade is being held for a period of three days before or three days after the commencement and adjournment thereof, only under such rules and regulations as the Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationale shall from time to time prescribe. With out limiting the power of said committee to make such rules and regulations as it deems necessary or proper, they may include forbidding the presence, use or consumption of any beverage containing alcohol upon, in or near such locomotive, box car or like equipment; forbid the use or occupancy by any person or persons not a member of La Societe, forbid or limit the use therein of any or all firearms, cannons whether miniature or otherwise, bells whistles or other peace-disturbing noises or devised, except during hours or times and places fixed by said rules and regulations; may require as a condition for permitting said locomotives, box cars or like equipment to display the emblem or name of La Societe, or name of a Grande Voiture or Voiture Locale of said La Societe, that sponsoring group first obtain; and continuously have in effect a written permit issued by said committee; and may provide for revocation or suspension of said permits; and may provide for sanctions for failure to obtain and have such permit or comply with such rules and regulations, by way of seizure and impounding by its agent of the offending locomotive, box car, or like equipment, at the expense of the sponsoring group, until not later than the third day the adjournment of Promenade Nationale or Grande Promenade. Said committee may from time to time issue, repeal and amend such rules and regulations for the enforcement of this Section as it deems necessary or proper, and they shall be published as issued, repealed or amended in The Forty et Eighter and shall be in force upon such publication; provided nothing herein shall be construed to forbid the committee, when circumstance in its opinion requiring immediate action arises, to take special action and impose notice of hearing, but the sponsoring group shall be entitled upon request; made within twelve hours of the imposition of the sanction to an immediate hearing before the committee in the case of a Promenade Nationale or before the Grands Cheminots in the case of a Grande Promenade, such requests to be made through the Correspondant Nationale in the former case and through the Grand Correspondant or Grand

Chef de Gare in the latter; provided, if no request is made within said twelve hours the right to question the sanction shall be deemed waived.

## Article XV

### Amendments

**Section 1. Method of Amendment.** This constitution may be amended at any Grande Promenade by a two-thirds vote of the total authorized representation thereof; provided, the proposed amendment shall be presented in writing by a Voiture Locale thirty days prior the first business session of the Grande Promenade, but provided further, any amendment presented by the Grande Voiture Constitution and By-laws Committee shall be considered without regard to the time of presentation thereof.

## Article XVI

### Repeal

**Section 1. Repeal and Saving Clause.** This constitution supersedes and takes the place of all earlier constitutions and amendments thereof; and the same are hereby revoked and annulled; provided, nothing in this constitution contained shall be construed, without the taking of proceedings authorized hereunder, to deprive any Voyageur Militaire of his/hers membership or to annual any charter hitherto granted to any Voiture Locale or retroactively to affect the provisions of any Voiture Locale constitution heretofore submitted and approved by the Avocat Nationale.

This constitution has only been revised to incorporate the changes which have been presented and approved by Voiture Nationale at a Promenade Nationale and by the Grande Voiture at a Grande Promenade.

Certified :

\_\_\_\_\_  
Glen DeLoach      Date  
Grand Correspondant

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Webb      Date  
Grand Chef de Gare

\_\_\_\_\_  
William "Joe" Jamnick      Date  
Grand Avocat

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne M Schwartz      Date  
Avocat Nationale