



## *Voiture 1379 Communiqué for June 2018*

The Voiture is still in need of fundraiser ideas so we may support our programs, which we have fallen behind in over the last few years. So please bring your ideas to the next Promenade.

Since our last dues increase in 2002, our membership has declined from 47,671 to just 24,136 at the close of the 2017 membership year. As of June 7, 2018, our membership stands at only 21,749. This decrease in dues money combined with the normal increase in the cost of doing business has made a dues increase necessary. Our Nationale dues is currently \$10.50, of which; \$.25 goes to the Ardery Fund and \$.25 goes to the Boland Fund, and \$10.00 goes to the General Fund. Between 2002 and 2017 there has been a drop in membership of 23,535. For the General Fund this is a **decrease in revenue of \$235,350**. Over the years we have done our best to offset this decrease in revenue by decreasing expenses and raising revenue in other areas. Since 2002, we have eliminated Correspondant National's leased vehicle and its associated expenses, decreased the number of full time employees with benefits from 7 to just 2. While there are 4 full time employees (and one part time employee) at Voiture Nationale; 2 of the 4 are Veterans who have declined health care benefits, increasing the savings to Voiture Nationale. Converting the 40 & 8er from 9 issues per year to a Quarterly magazine saved additional production costs and expenses. Obviously, our fundraisers help bridge the gap, but it is clear that fundraisers and cost cutting measures are not enough anymore. Some additional things to consider are that costs have gone up over the last 16 years. In 2002 stamps used to be \$.34 and are now \$.50, gas was \$1.11 and is now \$3.00 per gallon, a ream of paper was \$2.75 and is now \$5.00. Inflation has increased 38.4% over the 16 year period and Health Care costs have risen faster than inflation. In projecting the budgets for the next three years the Finance Committee projects losses of \$(32,000), \$(56,000) and \$(78,900). These losses are being created by a 6% decline in membership per year and normal inflationary costs. The Finance Committee is recommending a dues increase of \$5.00, which would go into effect with the Membership Year 2020; with an effective date of August 1, 2019. The Finance Committee would like to remind Voitures Locales and Grandes Voitures that an increase in Nationale dues, does not mandate an increase in dues at every level. In order to reduce the burden on individual Voyageurs, the Finance Committee would hope and encourage Locales and Grandes to refrain from increasing their dues on top of the proposed Nationale \$5.00 dues increase.

This months Promenade will be on June 27<sup>th</sup> at Post 61 Kansas City, MO with dinner at 18:00 HRS and the Promenade will begin at 19:00 HRS.

If there are any other functions you would like to "get the word out" please let me know and I will put them on in the next communiqué.

**Thank you for your service to Our Great Nation and the 40et8 through Voiture 1379. If we all work together we can and do make a difference.**

**Robert C. Emery, Correspondant Locale, Voiture 1379**

Check us out on the web

[www.fortyandeighth.org](http://www.fortyandeighth.org)  
[www.grandedumissouri.com](http://www.grandedumissouri.com)  
[www.voiture1379.com](http://www.voiture1379.com)