



Voiture 1379 Communiqué for March 2024

PLEASE DO NOT WEAR ANY 40 ET 8 REGALIA TO ANY POLITICAL EVENTS

Membership is currently at thirty six (36) out of thirty six (36) 2024 membership year (our numbers are shrinking rapidly).

As usual membership is life blood of any organization so let's get out there and find new members to help support the Forty and Eight and its programs.

Carville patient Stanly Stein began publishing a patient newspaper *The Star* in 1931 for the purpose of airing patient grievances and reaching the outside world. One of its campaigns was to promote use of "Hansen's disease" instead of "leprosy" and to halt the use of the word "leper." Stein recognized the Forty and Eight as the third veterans organization to appear at Carville. He notes, "I hesitate to think what the hospital would be like today if veterans had not been committed here, for it was through the vets that the national organizations became interested in Carville as a whole." The first documented contribution of the Forty and Eight at Carville occurred in 1943, when a voyageur from Arkansas contacted the 40&8's Grand du Louisiana regarding the need for a printing press for *The Star*. In December 1943 the Grand presented a press and all its accessories as a Christmas present to Stanley Stein and *The Star*. While the influence and activity of its one-time parent organization at Carville waned with the passing of the years and diminished demand for advocacy of patient grievances, 40&8's support to Carville remained steadfast. The Carville Star Program is currently one of the 40&8's seven major programs. As such it funds publication and distribution of *The Star*, keeping alive the legacy of "radiating the truth about Hansen's disease." . [Because there are no longer patients at Carville - *The Star* is now edited by a former patient. Now the magazine has as its purpose to: 1) Promote an educated public opinion of Hansen's disease. 2.) Serve as advocate for those who have experienced or been impacted by HD. 3) Foster self-empowerment of those who have experienced HD.] The Carville Star Program funds projects for the Carville Historic District, including the cemetery and the museum. Recently the Program installed interpretive signage throughout the District for touring visitors. The National Hansen's Disease Museum at Carville, the beneficiary of 40&8 support, houses displays to tell the story of 40&8's involvement at Carville. The 40&8 is a proud organization with Carville tightly bound into its history and tradition. No other veterans organization has as a declared mission to disseminate information to promote understanding of a disease. La Soci t  is an organization filled with traditions incorporated into our rituals and our programs like the Carville Star Program. In the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye addresses the importance of tradition when he says "Because of our traditions, we have kept our balance for many, many years...we have traditions for everything...You may ask, how did this tradition start? I'll tell you. I don't know. But it's a tradition. And because of our traditions, every one of us knows who he is, and what God expects him to do. Traditions, traditions. Without our traditions, our lives would be as shaky as... as... as a fiddler on the roof!" And so it is with La Soci t  with our traditions insuring our identity - who we are and what we stand for."

Don't forget the upcoming Grande du Missouri Spring WRECK being held April 5 – 7th in Springfield.

This month's Promenade will be on March 27th at Post 61 – Kansas City – With meal at 18:00 HRS followed immediately by the Promenade.

Thank you for your service to Our Great Nation, your service to 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 <http://www.voiture1379.com>

Check out the Grande du Missouri web site <http://www.grandedumissouri.com>