



Voiture 1379 Communiqué for May 2017

Membership is currently at 45 with our goal of 55 for the 2017 membership year. So keep on the lookout for those deserving veterans as possible members of the Forty and Eight.

As you know, in recent years the leadership of La Société, and by extension the membership, has wisely approved changes to our Constitution in cant barriers to our membership eligibility criteria. In many ways, La Société is the least restrictive Veterans Service Organization to join. You need not be a member of the American Legion, you don't have to be disabled, nor have served in a foreign war, nor during a specific time period. You only need to have served honorably, or be serving on active duty; and be asked by one of us. That's all.

It is also that time of the year for reports. If everyone would take a little time and make a note of your information for the past year (July 2016 to June 2017), that would help make our reports better. Generally the Directeurs are looking for total number of hour's volunteered, total number of miles driven and total dollars donated to various community and veteran projects. The reports are due to Grande Directeurs by June 15th.

VA - A new website is good news for veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs has started a website that will assist veterans seeking information on wait times at veterans facilities. To access the information, go online to <https://www.va.gov> and click on the box titled "Access and Quality in VA Healthcare." The site provides information on:

How quickly can the VA facility see the individual?

How satisfied are veterans with the care at the facility.

How does the care at the VA facility compare to other hospitals in the area.

How is the VA system doing with access nationally?

When George W. Bush left the Presidency, he decided to take painting lessons. His work is very good. The exhibit, "Portraits in Courage," depicts United States service members who have served since 9/11. The exhibit contains portraits of more than sixty veterans that Bush has painted. Pictures of these portraits have been published in a book, *Portraits in Courage*, by George W. Bush and proceeds go to support the George W. Bush Institute's Military Service Initiative, which has as one of its goals to help "veterans and families make a successful transition to civilian life and address issues of veteran wellness, including post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury." See BushCenter.org to learn more about the exhibit.

This month's Promenade will be on May 24th at Post 61 North Kansas City, MO with dinner and Promenade at the Post starting at 18:00 HRS.

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

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