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Greetings,

November 14, 2011

I want to address the Voyaguers and Dames of the Grand du Indiana and express my gratitude and appreciation for the support everyone has given me in attaining the high office of Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer.

Fortunately one of the Grandes under my guidance is the great state of Indiana. Being the largest Grande in Nationale brings a certain amount of respect but also an obligation. That obligation is to be a leader, not only in Nationale but within our own borders.

My job this year, along with every other member, is membership. Dealing with the numbers on a daily basis, you really realize what a desperate situation this organization is in. There are members, including myself, that can remember when Indiana boasted over 7,000 members, now we're barely scratching the surface of 3,500. My only question is why?

I believe this veteran's organization to be the best in the world bar none. We need to come together and stand tall and be proud of what we've accomplished as an organization. We need to get rid of the personnel agendas and consider what is best for the Forty and Eight. The **membership** of this Grande is what made this Grande a beacon for others to follow and I firmly believe we must continue that obligation.

Let's get there again by renewing, recruiting and reinstating our members. Let's get the membership turned in and be a part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

Fraternally,  
Mike McGary  
Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer