

FORTY ET EIGHTER

The official publication of

Fall 2023

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux



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Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank Campo and National Cabane Presidente Lori Bolley

GRANDE DU NEW YORK



Voiture 1637 Formal Wreck Ceremony conducted on Saturday, 10-21-23 at the Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, American Legion, in Kenmore, NY to bring in (9) new Voyageurs Militaire into La Societe.

Everyone in attendance was allowed time to introduce themselves to the group before the festivities started. The Formal Wreck was performed by Chef de Gare Wayne Sorrentino with the assistance of VM Arnie Tuchow and 98-year young VM Ron Zabrok. Several members above arrived from Canada where our Voiture meets monthly. Fig Newton, Ron Zabrok, Arnie Tuchow & Rob Williams all drove down from points north in Niagara Falls, Ontario and Burlington, Ontario, Canada to attend and participate in this Wreck event

MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION INFORMATION IN PROGRAMS IS THE PROPERTY OF THE PUBLISHER

VOITURE NATIONALE OFFICERS 2023 - 2024

Frank Campo	Chef de Chemin de Fer	California
Ron Rolles	Correspondant National	Germany
Kevin Johnson	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	Missouri
John Rodgers	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	Texas
John Edelblute	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	Wisconsin
Ron Garland	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	Florida
William Stroud	Avocat	Louisiana
James Bowman	Aumonier	North Carolina
Dan Dumas	Commissaire Intendant	California
Robert Hoek	Conducteur	Indiana
Robert Graves	Historian	Kansas

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When submitting articles, pictures or notices for publication in the Forty et Eighter, please only send articles in word or publisher format; not PDF. Pictures should only be sent as attachment or jpeg form. And YES they can also be sent by USPS. No pictures cut out of a newspaper will be accepted.

Send submissions to voiturenationale@msn.com or the L'editeur at wigrandvoiture@spectrum.net

William E. Streuber
1278 Spiers Circle
Bonneau, SC 29431
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Dear Voyagers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve as Aumonier Nationale for 2022-2023. It has been an honor and privilege to serve you and La Société. If there is anything I can ever do for you don't hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely Yours,

William E. (Bill) Streuber
Grande Aumonier du South Carolina
Aumonier Voiture 1067

BLUE CHEVALIERS

At Promenade Nationale in Sandusky, OH, the membership of La Societe overwhelmingly voted to approve and endorse The Blue Chevaliers as the newest full program in the Forty and Eight.

After several years of planning, organizing and operating as a successful project for the Public Relations Program, it will now be a stand alone Program beginning in 2025.

We will operate as usual in the 2024 year, as a project with no changes to what has been a very well supported success thus far. Your reception and support of The Blue Chevaliers is most appreciated and this could not have happened without the strong support of the Voyageurs and Dames, openly showing their approval of a Program to support law enforcement.

The staff of this project extends a well deserved **THANK YOU** to each of you for making this possible. Your reception and support of The Blue Chevaliers is most appreciated and this could not have happened without the strong support of the Voyageurs and Dames. We also want to recognize the hard work of the Nationale P.R. Program, especially Directeur Renny Keagle, for all their hard work and dedication in this important Program that will benefit the Law Enforcement Community and the 40 & 8 equally. Once again, **Many Thanks** for this opportunity. - The Blue Chevaliers Staff



What is Americanism? When you "google" Americanism you get many different examples of the meaning of Americanism. But, what does Americanism mean to us Forty and Eighters? It means – make Flag presentations; it means – supporting Youth Activities; it means – being involved in Community Activities such as being a blood donor, attending Promenades, WRECKS and participation in other Fraternal Organizations functions; it means – participation in Holidays and Memorials; it means – helping veterans.

The information listed above is not all inclusive as there are many other functions that come under Americanism for us Forty and Eighters. Contact your Voiture Locale Americanism Committee Directeur to obtain the information that makes-up Americanism for us Forty and Eighters.

Terry F. Chatfield National Directeur Americanism Program

CHEF DE CHEMIN DE FER FRANK CAMPO

Bon Jour Voyageurs,

I am honored to be elected your 2024 Chef de Chemin de Fer. I look forward to serving the members and this organization. I feel humbled to stand up here and remember the Chefs that have come before me. I think of the handshake that I received from outgoing Chef Frank and realize his handshake came from his predecessor leading up to my handshake that came from the first handshake of Chef Passe Joseph Breen.

I want to thank my Voiture, Fremont Voiture 1179 in Santa Maria, CA for endorsing and supporting me as well as my Grande, the Grande Voiture du California for endorsing and supporting me. Finally, I want to thank my Chef, my wife Jodie, for her support in getting me to where I am now.

My theme this year is BCT- Basics; Collaboration; and Tell. We need to get back to and focus on the Basics of this organization. During my travels, I have noticed that some locales or Grandes do not follow the ritual manual. Why not? We need to mentor our new members so when the time comes for them to assume a leadership position, they are ready. The basics include completing all program reports. We must participate in the programs of this organization. As the Americanism director for the last couple of years, I can tell that locales and Grandes are not participating in the programs of La Société. Why?

Collaboration- we have all heard the term "work smarter not harder" and "many hands make light work". We need to collaborate with other veteran service organizations, fraternal organizations, and service and social organizations. Many of these organizations serve veterans, children, and families. Many of us belong to the big 3 veteran's groups (Legion, VFW & DAV) as well as their affiliated honor societies. But many of us also belong to the MCL, AFA, AUSA, Navy League, AmVets, Tin Can Sailors Association, our Army and Marine Corps regiment and division associations. How about the Moose, Elks, Eagles and others. Many of you who are business leaders belong to the Rotary and Kiwanis. For youth programs, don't forget the YMCA & YWCA, or the Boys & Girls clubs. We have Scouts, Campfire girls, another great organization is the SAR and DAR. Not only will we collaborate in supporting our programs, but we may gain new members since several of these groups support veterans.

Finally, we must Tell our story. We don't tout our own horn enough. If you were to look at a newspaper from 60 years ago, you would most likely find an article on the local 40/8 Voiture and them sponsoring a blood drive or youth program. Today, you won't find that unless you live in a small town and have a good relationship with your paper. We need to get back to getting us back into the spotlight. We can also tell our story by wearing our chapeaus at veteran's funerals, parades or any other event that is appropriate. I've had several people ask me about my funny hat that I'm wearing. I then explain the funny hat and most common response is "I've never heard of the 40/8".

My project this year is the Building Maintenance fund for our national headquarters. Now that the building is paid off, we need to ensure the upkeep of it. There is no budgeted item for this. The only other way to maintain our property besides raising the per capita is donations. That's why I ask any donations I receive be made to the building maintenance fund. I am also asking that any fines go towards our newest program "Blue Chevaliers".

In closing, let's have a great year, grow our membership and get back to the Basics, collaborate with others and Tell our story

VOYAGEUR HAS DESTROYER CHRISTENED IN HIS NAME

Bath, Maine - Marine 1st. Lt. Harvey "Barney" Barnum jumped to the ground when he came under fire during an ambush in Vietnam that killed his radio operator and felled his commander in 1965.

Collecting himself, Barnum realized he was now the highest-ranking officer of a rifle company he'd just joined. He called in artillery and, amid gunfire, dragged the commander to safety, where he died in Barnum's arms. Then he proceeded to mount a counterattack, oversaw evacuation of the wounded and lead the unit's eventual breakout to rejoin the battalion.

The Medal of Honor recipient, 83, watched Saturday as his wife smashed a bottle of wine against the bow to christen the future U.S. Navy destroyer that will bear the name Harvey C. Barnum Jr.

He said he was speechless when he learned that a warship would bear his name. "As anybody knows Barney Barnum knows, I've never been speechless," he joked.

The ceremony Saturday was a tribute to the Vietnam War hero who during his fire-fight was yet know his of days ear- foisted into leadership of Marines who didn't name because he'd just joined them a couple lier. Gen. Eric Smith, the acting Marine Corps com- mandant, called Barnum "an icon, a legend, a

Barnum became the first Medal of Honor recipient in the Vietnam War to return for another tour. He retired from the Marine Corps as a colonel after nearly three decades of service.

Barnum, of Reston, Virginia, was born in Cheshire, Connecticut, and studied at Saint Anselm College, a Benedictine college in Goffstown, New Hampshire. The school's abbot delivered the invocation at the christening of the ship.

Harvey C. Barnum, Jr. is a member of Voiture Locale 976, Grande du Virginia, for the past 24 years.

AMERICANISM

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Terry F. Chatfield National Directeur Americanism Program



SPECIAL AWARDS

WAYNE SORRENTINO - NATIONAL DIRECTEUR

Greetings Voyageurs, Dames, and Friends, as the new Special Awards Directeur, it was my committee's honor to host and present the Special Awards award recipients for 2023 in Sandusky, Ohio at Prom Nationale. I refrain from calling these four "Winners" since, in my opinion, everyone who was nominated is a "Winner". Thank you specifically to my four Sous Directeur's: Don Caudell, Jr, Lawson Dukes, Sean Johnson and Mildred Wright-Pearson for their untiring efforts and due diligence with performing their assigned tasks, to Judge our nominations and select our award recipients. Every Grande should be submitting a nomination for EACH AWARD and those nominated should receive an award / plaque at the Locale and Grande levels even if not selected for the Nationale award, and with appropriate publicity. PR is necessary to promote our Great 40 & 8 Organization and to assist in achieving our membership goals.

Without further ado, I give you our 2023 Award Recipients and their BIOS:

VOYAGEUR OF THE YEAR

From the Grande du Minnesota, Voiture-281, James Olson.

James' nomination package includes a dozen endorsement letters listing his many accomplishments, leadership, work ethic and volunteer spirit. James is also Grande La Editeur of the Grande's monthly newsletter and the Grande's Public Relations Directeur. James is directly responsible for the Grande being 100%+ on membership for the last three years due to his efforts. His goal is to recruit members who will work for La Societe and improve the Voiture's relationship within the local community. James is also in charge of the committee for Nurses Training Fundraising, using raffles and dinners to raise funds for ten \$750 scholarships annually. He is a PLM of V-281 and serves as Locale Correspondant. James was honored with a three-page spread in the Minnesota Legionnaire Magazine, October 2022 issue. James was selected as District Vice Commander of the Year 2022-23 for the Second District and the Marine Corps League Dept of Minnesota selected him as their 2023 Marine of the Year. Congratulations to Voyageur James Olson, The 40&8's Nationale Voyageur of the Year for 2023.

HERO OF THE YEAR

From the Grande de la Louisiana, Deputy Robert Fertal of the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Fertal is a 9-year law enforcement veteran with the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office. Currently assigned to the Patrol Unit, he previously worked at the Caddo Correctional Center. Holding an associate degree from Bossier Parish Community college, he served our nation for 6 years in the US Marine Corps Reserve. Deputy Fertal's compassion and dedication to duty are evident day to day, but on May 6, 2022, while filling in for the School Resource Officer at C. E. Byrd High School in Shreveport, he went above the call of duty when he responded to a classroom medical emergency.

When Deputy Fertal arrived at the classroom, 17-year-old student, Zoria Cooper, who suffered from multiple medical conditions, was lying on the floor, unconscious, unresponsive, and not breathing. Advised the student had been choking on some food, Deputy Fertal tried the Heimlich Maneuver several times without success before lying the student on her back and initiating chest

compressions. The student, who had been turning blue, spit up the lodged food and began to breathe on her own. The student's teacher, Ms. Sonya Carter, lauded Deputy Fertal's actions and reflected on the day, stating Zoria would have perished without Deputy Fertal's immediate life-saving actions. Awarded the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office Lifesaving Award on January 8, 2023, for his actions that day, Sheriff Steve Prator remarked, "Deputy Fertal showed extreme poise and professionalism. He followed his training and saved the life of one of our children." His heroism is an inspiration to all and reflects great credit upon himself, the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, the state of Louisiana and our nation. He is truly deserving of the Hero of the Year Award (2023). We endorse this recommendation without reservation.

Congratulations to Deputy Robert Fertal, The 40&8's Nationale Hero of the Year 2023.

CITY / TOWN OF THE YEAR

The City of the Year is from the Grande du Illinois.

The city of DeKalb, Illinois prides itself in welcoming and honoring Veterans. Some of the military acknowledgements and honoring veterans' projects include:

World War I Memorial Clock (rebuilt in 2022).

75 Banners honoring current and past military members in the downtown area.

Military service flags are on display in the downtown area.

Reserved parking spaces in the downtown area and select businesses throughout the city.

Welcome signs which state DeKalb is "A VETERAN FRIENDLY CITY".

Formal military ceremonies for Memorial Day & Veterans Day A Military Honor Guard for military funerals and civic events Extremely active military organizations: The 40 et 8, The American Legion and AMVETS.

Select businesses and shoppes offering discounts to veterans and military families.

An official military memorial with service flags and bricks honoring veterans with special WWI memorial benches honoring the service branches.

A supportive city staff and Mayor who endorses Veterans' projects.

Proposed Farmer's Military Memorial honoring the young men and women from the farm who served in the military.

Additional projects are in the works and fundraising efforts are ongoing.

Accepting the award for the city of DeKalb, Illinois is Voyageur, US Air Force veteran & advisor to the Hometown Hero Banner Program, Michael Embrey, whose Hometown Hero banner was placed in 2021. Thank you to the city of DeKalb for their continued support of the Hometown Hero Banner Program to honor your hometown's veteran heroes. DeKalb, Illinois is our 40&8 Nationale City of the Year 2023.

LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR

From the Grande de la Louisiana, Deputy Benjamin Adam Jones, Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Jones is a 15-year law enforcement veteran who currently serves with the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office and is assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division in conjunction with the US Marshal Service Violent Offender Task Force. He and his team are tasked with apprehending the most violent criminals in North Louisiana. In the past year, Deputy Jones has participated in the apprehension of 62 wanted murderers, three escapees, three kidnapers and 21 armed robbers.

Deputy Jones, who has worked in Patrol, Narcotics and served as a Training Instructor, comes from a long line of law enforcement

officers from state and federal agencies. He has an extensive training portfolio, holding several instructor certificates. He is a 2002 graduate of Riverdale Academy and possesses a Bachelor of Arts degree from Louisiana State University. He is active in the community from performing Special Response Team demonstrations in schools to assisting with fundraisers, mostly teaching our youth basic firearms safety, benefiting various non-profit organizations.

In 2015, Deputy Jones was part of the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force when he rescued a kidnapped girl from a hostage situation in Bossier Parish. The following year he received a national honorable mention from TOP COPS sponsored by the National Association of Police Organizations for his active role in that case.

We applaud Deputy Jones for his exceptional work, devotion to duty and unwavering commitment to the citizens of Caddo Parish. It is without reservation that we nominate him for The 40 et 8 Law Officer of the Year 2023.

Congratulations to Deputy Jones for being selected as The 40 et 8's Law Officer of the Year 2023.

Commentary

Additionally, my congratulations to Voyageur Shawn M. Bohannon of Voiture Locale 137, who is also the Grand Special Awards Directeur de la Louisiana who wrote up and submitted both nomination packages. He obviously knows what we want to see in a nominations package.

The Irving M. "HAL" Halpern Award was presented to the Grande whose nominee was selected as our Law Officer of the Year. The Grande's award, presented to Grand Chef de Gare de la Louisiana, Michael Peats.

The William P. Lyons Award is presented to the Grande whose nominee was selected as our HERO of the Year. The Grande's award, presented to Grand Chef de Gare de la Louisiana, Michael Peats.

To make the point, we can't do our job if you don't do your job, which is to write up a quality nomination for your candidate for any of our four Special Awards. These nominations must be generated by the Voitures Locale, not Grande nor Nationale. Any nomination should be cause for a local award presentation, even if the candidate is not selected for the Nationale award. An award from the Locale or the Grande at an appropriate ceremony or a dinner, and possibly some newspaper coverage will go a long way toward providing some PR for our organization and great exposure for your Voiture or Grande. Offer to help them write the story by providing names, titles, etc. Please contact me or my Sous Directeur's for more ideas and assistance. Every person or City nominated is a winner!! But only one of each category can be selected for our award. Now is the time to start working on the 2024 awards.

Looking forward to a successful 2024.

Thank you.

For La Societe - Wayne P. Sorrentino



Pictured L to R: Sous Directeur Lawson Dukes, Sous Directeur Sean Johnson, Voyageur of the Year 2023 James Olson, Grande du Minnesota, Sous Directeur Don Caudell, Jr, Directeur Special Awards Wayne P. Sorrentino, Hero of the Year 2023 Robert Fertal of Louisiana, Law Officer of the Year Benjamin A. Jones of Louisiana, City of the Year DeKalb, IL rep Michael Embrey, Sous Directeur Mildred S. Wright-Pearson shortly after the Special Awards Ceremony at Prom Nationale in Sandusky, Ohio on Friday, 9-15-23. Congrats to all of the award recipients and to my Sous Directeur's for all of their hard work and dedication to make this a successful year. Wayne P. Sorrentino, Directeur Special Awards.

GRANDE DU SOUTH CAROLINA



Voiture 1067 youth sports chairman Bill Simpson and Chef de Gare Brian "Ba" Masterson present a check to Daniel Schenk, son of Joe Schenk (V-1067), mom and grandson of John Schenk Grand du VA (not pictured) in the amount of \$350.00 in support of his baseball team.

GRANDE DU FLORIDA



Judah Walker is a student at River City Science Academy, Jacksonville, FL. His school collects can pop tops and donates them to the Ronald McDonald House. On October 5th, 2023, at Voiture 304's Promenade, Jacksonville, Voyageur Terry Lee, Sous National Directeur & Grand du Florida Directeur for Child Welfare, presented Judah with 14 pounds of pop tops for his school, along with a Certificate of Partnership for Child Welfare. He was also presented with miniature US Flags for himself and his school class by our Locale Directeur for Americanism Gary LaFrance.

GRANDE DU CALIFORNIA



KEEP THE WHEELCHAIRS ROLLING
CDCE Specialist Evan Fasbinder from the Palo Alto VA Medical Center, Ca. receives a check for \$500.00 as part of the Keep the Wheelchairs Rolling Contest to purchase wheelchair gloves for their patients. Not pictured is VAVS Rep. Voyageur Dennis Matarrese

GRANDE DU PENNSYLVANIA



On Saturday August 05, 2023 Grande Chef De Gare Joe Warren presented a plaque to Grand Commissaire Intendant Dave Kessling for all his hard work with The Grande Du PA from 1980 to 2013



GRANDE DU MISSISSIPPI

Volunteers at the Fall Carnival at the VA Biloxi (MS) Medical Center challenged inpatients to a game of "Coin Toss" and awarded prizes for the effort. From left to right - Ken Massa, Chef de Gare Ed Wise, Cabane President Pat Adams, Tom Adams, Curtis Smith, and Andy Jackson enjoyed a busy day with over 100 inpatients participating.

GRANDE DU NEBRASKA



At the September meeting, members of the local Voiture 10/15 of the 40 & 8 in Nebraska City, NE, were presented with the J. Dudley State Award for being the first Voiture locale to reach the membership goal of 100%.

Pictured are Charles Rivett, Roger Kopf, Virgil Blum of Omaha presenting the award, Dale Kopf, and Orville Oelke. They are accepting the award for Chef de Gare (president) Carl Christensen, who was absent

GRANDE DU ARIZONA



Laura Goulet has received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and other educational honors. Over her 22 years of medical service, she began her journey as a Corpsman in the US Naval Reserve. She progressed and held various medical positions in her field of choice, including hospital Skilled Charge Nurse and Nursing Director.

She is currently employed at Mercy Gilbert Medical Center in the Specialized Intensives Cardiac Care Unit, where she is exposed to many heart attack sufferers. She has received many congratulatory remarks from her peers and patients' families on her work accomplishments. We presented her with our Nurse Training accomplishment award and a small monetary gift. We congratulate Laura on a job well done!

GRANDE DU WISCONSIN



Four new Voyageurs initiated into the ranks of La Societe at the Monroe Voiture # 804 famous "Brown Collar Wreck." that was held in Tomah on August 19th.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

I'm proud to continue another year as the Nationale Public Relations Directeur for La Societe. Last year was my first year and I learned a lot from our membership and I hope you all learned a lot from us on the Public Relations Committee. That learning process brought about some changes to our report, changes to our awards for next year and of course the Blue Chevalier Project becoming a full program in 2025. Some of our newsletter awards seemed duplicitous so we are creating two new PR awards, one for websites and the other for social media - details to follow in the PR newsletter the Bulletin.



I want to mention that 2024 will be the 75th anniversary of the Gratitude Train and we hope that many states with "Merci Boxcars" will take the public relations opportunity to promote that event. Many states like Texas and Kansas are gearing up for great celebrations and remembrances. If you need ideas or help, let us know. Blue Chevalier will continue this year under Public Relations. As we draw closer to Promenade Nationale in 2024 and the beginning of our 2025 year, you will be hearing more about the transition to a full program. Please continue to support both Public Relations with membership in the Press Association of La Societe and of course Blue Chevalier - I'm only a text or email away for details. Contact information for myself and the Sous Directeur's is on the Nationale website.

AUMONIER NATIONAL

Greetings Voyageurs and La Femmes Let me take a moment and introduce myself, my name is James Bowman and I am your Nationale Aumonier. It is an Honor to serve Nationale and this organization this year, as your Spiritual Leader.



I have been a member of this great and wonderful organization, for over 16 years. I belong to the Grand du North Carolina and Locale Voiture 506. I reside in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Since becoming a member of the 40 & 8 I have held the following offices:

Voiture Locale: Chef de Gare 3 years, Correspondant 3 years, Commissaire Intendant 4 years

Grande Voiture NC: Grand Chef de Gare 2 years, Aumonier, Chef de train, Commissaire Intendant.

I look forward to assisting you, the Voitures Locale, Grand Voitures and Nationale in anyway I can, for your spiritual needs. If there is anything at all I can do to assist you, please feel free to reach out to me at 336-669-5704 or email me at sgmjbowman@gmail.com.

Now more than ever as, people of faith, we need to understand the times and the world we live in today. So, join me in praying for our country, our military and our veterans and the world we live in. Yes, there will be ups and downs, but the overall trend is certain, as we continue with our faith. May God continue to bless us all and these great states of America.

Sincerely in Christ's Service;

James Bowman
Nationale Aumonier

RITUAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Steve Bradley - National Directeur

Ritual of Celebration for the Birthday of the
La Societe de Quarante Homes et Huit Chevaux

Page 1

(Use with Guests and Voyageurs)

Chef de Gare: "With THREE raps of the gavel I call all Voyageurs to ATTENTION. Guests please stand."

Chef de Gare: "Monsieur Conducteur, the Flag of our Country being in its place of honor, you will cause the Voyageurs to come to the salute. Guests please place your right hand over your heart."

Conducteur: "Voyageurs, Garde-a-Vous! Right Hand, Salute!"

Monsieur Chef de Gare, the Voyageurs are at the Salute."

Chef de Gare: You will join me in pledging allegiance to the Flag:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Chef de Gare: "Monsieur Chef de Train you will place the POW/MIA chair cover on the empty chair."

(The Chef de Train advances and reverently places the POW/MIA chair cover over the empty chair then steps back two paces)

Chef de Train: "Let this symbol serve as a reminder that we must never diminish our efforts to gain the freedom, and safe return of those still living, and the return of the remains or full accounting of those who have perished. Let us renew our resolve in striving for a full accounting of all the missing. May they know, through our efforts that truly, they are not forgotten."

Short Form (Use if celebration is part of a Promenade)

Chef de Gare: "With ONE rap of the gavel, I ask you to please be seated."

"Welcome Voyageurs Militaire, (honored guests) and all who hold service to God and Country as sacred. Today marks the _____ Birthday of "La Societe de Quarante Homes et Huit Chevaux" commonly known as the Forty and Eight, or La Societe. In March of 1920, Joseph W. Breen, a member of the newly formed American Legion and an officer of the

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Breen-McCracken Legion Post 297, met in Philadelphia with fifteen other prominent Legionaries where they originated the idea of The Forty and Eight. They envisioned a new and different level of elite membership and camaraderie for leaders of the American Legion. The box car of the French Railways, so familiar to American ground troops fo the First World War, was chosen as the symbolic heart of the new organization. The French Railroad theme was applied to officer titles and organizational functions.

During the last _____ years La Societe has endeavored to seek out and satisfy the needs of our Nations Veterans, Local Communities and the Nation's Children."

Chef de Gare: "Now, as it is our intention to celebrate the Birthday of our beloved Societe, let us proceed!
Chef de Cuisine, bring forth the Birthday Cake."

[**Chef de Cuisine** brings forth the cake to a point in front of the podium. The Chef de Cuisine gives the French Salute to the Chef de Gare and while holding the salute says] "Monsieur Chef de Gare, the celebratory confection has been placed in its position of Honor!"

Chef de Gare: Give THREE raps of gavel for ATTENTION

"Monsieur Aumonier please offer a prayer."

Aumonier: offers prayer

Chef de Gare: "Monsieur Chef de Cuisine, proceed with the cutting of the Birthday cake and serving everyone."

"I now declare this Birthday Celebration of La Societe duly closed."

"Laissez les bons temps rouler!" (Let the good times roll)

[Lay say le bon tom roo-lay]

End of Short Form

(Use with Guests and Voyageurs)

Chef de Gare: "Guests please place your right hand over your heart."

"Monsieur Conducteur, The Flag of our Country remaining in place, you will cause the Voyageurs to come to the Salute."

Conducteur: Voyageurs, Garde-a-Vous! Right hand Salute!"
Chef de Gare: "Attention! Monsieur Chef de Train, you will remove the POW/MIA chair cover from the Empty Chair.

(The Chef de Train removes the POW/MIA Chair cover and steps back two paces.

Chef de Gare thanks everyone for their attendance.



MEMBERSHIP 2024

October 26th, 2023

AREA	2022	2023	PERCENT	
ALABAMA	3	97	76	78.35%
ALASKA	1	132	57	43.18%
ARIZONA	1	387	110	28.42%
ARKANSAS	3	74	25	33.78%
CALIFORNIA	2	604	372	61.59%
COLORADO	1	50	14	28.00%
CONNECTICUT	4	105	51	48.57%
DELAWARE	2	27	8	29.63%
DIST OR COLUMBIA	2	15	6	40.00%
FLORIDA	3	517	268	51.84%
FRANCE	3	98	58	59.18%
GEORGIA	3	296	163	55.07%
GERMANY	4	68	47	69.12%
IDAHO	1	95	53	55.79%
ILLINOIS	2	920	526	57.17%
INDIANA	1	1955	960	49.10%
IOWA	2	220	69	31.36%
KANSAS	2	288	136	47.22%
KENTUCKY	3	148	85	57.43%
LATIN AMERICA	2	10	4	40.00%
LOUISIANA	3	462	261	56.49%
MAINE	4	86	48	55.81%
MARYLAND	4	208	50	24.04%
MASSACHUSETTS	4	101	65	64.36%
MICHIGAN	4	724	280	38.67%
MINNESOTA	4	862	333	38.63%
MISSISSIPPI	3	124	82	66.13%
MISSOURI	1	682	433	63.49%
MONTANA	1	73	27	36.99%
NEBRASKA	2	264	121	45.83%
NEVADA	1	17	5	29.41%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1	68	12	17.65%
NEW JERSEY	2	57	29	50.88%
NEW MEXICO	1	13	4	30.77%
NEW YORK	4	685	353	51.53%
NORTH CAROLINA	3	459	227	49.46%
NORTH DAKOTA	2	166	73	43.98%
OHIO	3	961	413	42.98%
OKLAHOMA	2	109	26	23.85%
OREGON	1	140	74	52.86%
PENNSYLVANIA	4	855	296	34.62%
SOUTH CAROLINA	3	250	126	50.40%
SOUTH DAKOTA	2	323	224	69.35%
TENNESSEE	3	60	16	26.67%
TEXAS	2	246	128	52.03%
UTAH	1	14	0	0.00%
VERMONT	2	28	15	53.57%
VIRGINIA	3	330	219	66.36%
WASHINGTON	1	420	184	43.81%
WEST VIRGINIA	3	128	58	45.31%
WISCONSIN	4	808	410	50.74%
WYOMING	1	22	5	22.73%
V2000		434	72	16.59%
TOTALS		16285	7757	47.63%

AREA	2023	2024	Percent	
Area - 2 John Rodgers	3277	1737	53.01%	1st Place
Area - 3 Ron Garland	4004	2077	51.87%	2nd Place
Area - 1 Kevin Johnson	4068	1938	47.64%	3rd Place
Area - 4 John Edelblute	4502	1933	42.94%	4th Place
V-2000	434	72	16.59%	



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer
John Rodgers



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer
Ron Garland



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer
Kevin Johnson



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer
John Edelblute IV



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National Box Car Association

Fellow Voyageurs, I bring you greetings from the National Box Car Association!

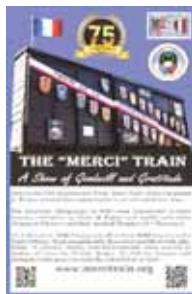
About a month ago we finished up Promenade Nationale in Sandusky, Ohio, and it was quite the Promenade. As always, there was a great time to be had, and it was good catching up with those that you only see once a year. At Promenade, we raffled off an one-of-a-kind framed poster, recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Merci Train. The raffle was won by Binion Williams, who turned around and gifted it to outgoing Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank Kronen.



With this new Voyageur year, as with all, there is change. This year, we are saying goodbye to two of our NBCA Sous Directeur's, Wanda Hunter and Andres (Andy) Jaime. I would like to personally thank you both for all that you did for the NBCA, as well as La Société as a whole. Your efforts did not go unappreciated. At the same time, we are also welcoming back to the NBCA, Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer (Passe) Steve Dircks from Grande du Minnesota, as one of our Sous Directeur's. Welcome back, Steve! Returning to Box Car as Sous Directeur's this year are Mike Robberstad from Grand du Oregon, Lonnie Haynes from Grand du Michigan, Dennis Matarrese from Grande du California, Mike Peats from Grande du Louisiana, Dave Kessling from Grande du Pennsylvania, and Doyle Wood from Grande du Kansas. Last but certainly not least, we have Virgil Blum returning as the Box Car Secretaire. Virgil, your hard work makes my job so much easier. Thank you! I know our team will continue to do great work for La Société moving forward!

As you may be aware, the Merci Train Box Cars, which were gifted by France in 1949, are celebrating their 75th Anniversary in 2024. I encourage all of the Grandes to reach out to the caretakers of your Box Car and try to get an event planned to help commemorate the 75th Anniversary. If you do get things planned, please let us (Nationale and the NBCA) know about what you have planned so that we can get it promoted on the website.

Related to the 75th Anniversary of the Merci Trains comes two new products we have this year; a "Merci Train 75th Anniversary" mini poster which was provided by Dave Knutsen from Grande du Texas, and also the "43 Remaining Merci Train Box Cars" poster, designed by my daughter and I. Many of you may have seen both posters at our table at Promenade Nationale. Both are in stock and available for purchase.



Along with the new posters that are available, Pins, Crew Cards (and Associate), Whistles, Patches, and Coins are still our bread and butter. What are these you may ask? These are some of the main generators of funds for Box Car. If you or your Grande haven't gotten yours yet, please reach out to the Box Car Secretaire, Virgil Blum, to arrange for purchase or consignment. We had a significant increase in revenue generated this past year, and we need to continue this upward trajectory so that we may continue to make the donations that so many of our groups and programs count on each year.

I will close this first column of the 2024 Voyageur Year as I always do; if you ever have any questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to reach out. I am always happy to help with anything you need.

Until next time...

LET'S CONTINUE TO KEEP THE BOX CAR ROLLING ALONG!

CHILD WELFARE

Voyageurs All:

We recently completed our National Promenade. I thank Sous Directeur's Tim Evans, Terry Lee and Norm Crawford along with Treasurer John Kaiserian for their help and assistance in distributing our 2024 Child Welfare Pins. 25 Grandes or Locales within Grande Voitures picked up this year's pins. That means 27 Grandes did not participate yet in the original Charitable Function of the Forty and Eight! Following the close of the Promenade, we welcome our new Treasurer Deb Reynolds from FL and our Advisor Terry Sims from IN.

As we head into the holiday season, many Locales host parties for children. Here's an idea: why not present each child at your hosted parties a Child Welfare Pin that they can wear all year! Pins are available from me. I do request that you order a minimum of 25 due to shipping costs. Payment isn't due till April 1 of 2024 so you've got plenty of time to sell or give away pins. They are only \$3.00ea or if you prepay for 100 or more, the price drops to \$2.75ea. A BARGAIN in today's environment.

Sous Directeur's send letters monthly to available contacts in Grande Voitures. The key is AVAILABLE! I ask that each Grand Correspondant identify their Child Welfare contact in their respective Grande Voiture.

Thanks for reading and remember ORDER PINS from me. My contact info is in the registry.



RUSSIAN-CARBINE PRESENTATION

A circa 1943 Russian-made carbine captured in January 1968 from a Communist Viet Cong guerrilla fighter has found a new home in Phoenix. It was donated to the Friends of Freedom, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting active and military veterans. The donation is timed to be on display by Veterans Day, November 11. The carbine was donated by Norman M. Covert, a recent transplant to Sun City West, Ariz., from Frederick, Md. Mr. Covert was retired from Fort Detrick, Md., in May 1999. He was chief of public affairs and command historian for U. S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. The carbine was the remaining historical artifact from Mr. Covert's extensive military library, writings and collection of memorabilia dating from the Revolutionary War.

Francis Scott Key Post 11, The American Legion, in Frederick established a military museum in 2020 at its post home, to which Mr. Covert donated his library collection and individual soldier and battlefield memorabilia. The rest of his military weapons were donated to other collections. David Haddad, president of Fumar Cigars of Phoenix and CEO of Friends of Freedom gratefully accepted the donation, saying it would be displayed in a shadow box alongside a full sized Russian Mosin-Nagant rifle in the impressive artifact room. The weapon was noted for its durability and accuracy. "The carbine is a rare example of the types of weapons used by the insurgent Viet Cong in South Vietnam," Mr. Haddad said. "We are honored to be able to display it for the men and women of Friends of Freedom who have dedicated their time and resources to support our active military members, heroic veterans and first responders." The modified Mosin-Nagant carbine was stripped of much of its large stock, reducing its weight, and a unique flash suppressor was affixed to the muzzle.

It was recovered by the late Col. Robert M. Shaw, Jr., near Long Binh, Republic of South Vietnam in January 1968 when the bloody Communist Tet Offensive was thwarted. The Army authorized Colonel Shaw to keep the carbine as a souvenir of the battle. It was later registered at Rock Island (Ill.) U.S. Army Arsenal. Colonel Shaw retained ownership. After his retirement as commander of Fort Detrick in 1980, he transferred custody to Mr. Covert, who used it for display during his lectures and speeches on military history. The Mosin-Nagant rifle was manufactured in several models dating to the turn of the 20th century. The carbine probably has an extensive history. It may have been used in World War II in Indo-China and the insurgency against the French colonials. Its recovery was evidence of its service in the Vietnam independence war, which dated from 1954, and guerrilla fighting in South Vietnam by forces of Ho Chi Minh. Mr. Covert, who served in the U. S. Army from 1967-1973, authored several historical volumes on U. S. military history and development and use of Biological Warfare weapons. His writings include Cutting Edge, a history of Fort Detrick, MD. He is a member of Voiture 155, Frederick, Grande du Maryland, also affiliated with Voiture 1154, Surprise, Ariz., and is Nationale Sous Directeur Emeritus of Americanism, La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux. He also is a life member of Chapter 304, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) and Francis Scott Key Post 11, The American Legion, Frederick. He was an award winning news reporter and editor. He edited the U. S. Army Recruiting Journal during the Army's transition to an All-Volunteer Army. He also served as chief of command Information for U. S.



Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Va.

The Friends of Freedom was established in 2009, headquartered in Phoenix. Certification as a 501(C)(3) entity came six years after the first delivery of cigars and other personal items to the troops in Iraq and later Afghanistan. The Department of Defense approved the privately funded effort, providing space on transport aircraft to the war zone. Friends of Freedom is affiliated with American Airlines, the Gary Sinise Foundation, United Service Organization (USO), Chef Irvine Foundation, the Tribute to Valor Foundation and many individual donors. Its program has been extended to first responders, family members, those recovering from wounds at military medical centers and veterans suffering posttraumatic stress syndrome (PTSD). Recent efforts by Friends of Freedom includes transporting patients from the military medical centers to Las Vegas for recreational visits, and sponsoring high school STEM students to NASA Space Center, Houston, Tex., to augment their classroom education. "We want to be able to fill in the support gaps which the Veterans Administration and other charitable groups cannot fulfill," Mr. Haddad said. "Our board of directors has been diligent with its vision to increase our outreach." You may contact Friends of Freedom at www.friendsoffreedomusa.org. David Haddad, founder of Friends of Freedom, Phoenix, Ariz., accepts donation of Russian made Mosin-Nagant carbine captured from a Viet Cong guerrilla near Long Binh, South Vietnam, after the bloody January 1968 Tet Offensive

VOITURE ACTIVITIES

John Helgeson - National Directeur

While the Voiture Activities program doesn't sell pins or donate money, it is a key to the reporting function of other programs. Preparing Voiture Activities reports can help you gather information which will assist in preparing other program reports. The goal of Voiture Activities is to measure the amount of participation of individual voyageurs and dames at the Locale and Grande level. The requirement for a reportable event is that it be planned by two or more voyageurs and executed by at least one voyageur. There is a separate reporting category for the use of "rolling stock". Rolling stock is any vehicle which has Forty and Eight logos displayed. The Cabanes and Dames are an integral part of La Societe and their participation is reportable on your Locale and Grande reports. Work with them! Report their support in your endeavors.

Information and ideas can be found on the fortyandeight.org website, under "Programs". The Petite Communiqué page has the Locale and Grande reports and instructions for completing them. Reviewing those resources will give you ideas about reportable activities. Record reporting information as you do events. It makes it easier to fill out Voiture Activities (and other program) reports at the end of the program year.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the Voiture Activities program, contact me or one of our Sous Directeur's (contact information at the website at "Resources - National Officers). My phone number is 715-381-3945 and my e-mail address is jhelges98c@gmail.com.

CORRESPONDANT NATIONAL RON ROLFES

GREETINGS VOYAGEURS

On the 14th of September in Sandusky, I closed a chapter of my career with La Societe that spanned 18 years as your VAVS Directeur. I will always cherish that time and VAVS will always have a special



place in my heart. The morning of the 15th brought a new challenge as I became your newly appointed Correspondant Nationale. Before I proceed with this message, and for those that do not know me, here is a little background information.

I was born on Barksdale AFB in Louisiana and am a graduate of Holy Cross High School in New Orleans. I enlisted into the United States Air Force Reserve in 1981 while attending college at the University of New Orleans and started my active-duty career in 1983 as an Aircraft Maintenance Technician. I spent most of my career in Europe, (13 yrs in Germany and five in England) and I am a Desert Storm Veteran and retired on 1 December 2003. I now reside in Hudson, Fla.

I had the pleasure of being wrecked into La Societe, Voiture Locale 1554, Bitburg, Germany in October of 1992. I served V-1554 by holding various offices including Chef de Gare in 1998. I served the Grande du Germany as Grand Cheminot from 1993-1996, Lampiste in 1997, Conducteur and Directeur Nurses Training in 1998, was elected as Grande Chef de Gare in 1999, and awarded a "Honorary" life membership thereafter. I currently belong to V-1546 in the Grande du Germany.

I have been no stranger to the Voiture Nationale serving as a Committeeman on the Ritual's 2000-01, Sous Directeur Membership 2002-04 and Alternate Cheminot Nationale 2003. In 2004, I had the distinct pleasure of being elected to the high office of Sous Chef de Chemin Der Fer for the 2005 year. In September of 2005, I was appointed Nationale Directeur VAVS/SVH and held that position till just recently. I also maintained a seat on Voiture Nationale's Advisory Committee and Served as Sous Correspondant Nationale. Lastly, I am privileged to act as the Liaison between the VA and La Societe as our National Representative on the VAVS National Advisory Committee.

As we proceed through the year you will hear about some things that are going on at Headquarters, etc. Although this will be much different than being a Directeur, I look forward to the challenge and serving La Societe in this capacity. If I can be of assistance to any of you, please do not hesitate to contact me. En Service - Ron Rolfes



Terry Sims receives a retirement present from Ron Rolfes and the Voiture National Office Staff.

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GRANDE DU SOUTH DAKOTA



The Fall Cheminot in Grande du South Dakota proved to be a resounding success thanks to the implementation of various team building events. Under the leadership of Sean Johnson and his project, the Blue Chevalier, participants engaged in a poker walk that added a unique twist to the event. Each establishment involved was provided with a Blue Chevalier lawn sign, and the objective was to enter these establishments, locate a veteran or law enforcement personnel, and treat them to a beverage. This activity not only fostered a sense of camaraderie among the participants but also honored those who have served their country or community.

During the Cheminot, the focus extended beyond just the team building activities. It also served as a training ground for new Directeur's and officers, where they were introduced to the protocols and procedures of the event. Pronunciation of French words, an integral part of the Cheminot, was emphasized to ensure that participants paid proper respect to the rich cultural heritage of the event. Moreover, participants were taught how to effectively fill out reports and handle the regular business of La Societe.

One notable aspect of the event was the mentorship provided to each officer or Directeur from a Voiture Locale. They were paired with a Grande Directeur, who shared their expertise and knowledge, allowing the newcomers to gain valuable insights into the program. This mentoring relationship encouraged the development of leadership skills and provided a platform for continuous learning and growth.

The success of the Fall Cheminot was not limited to the enriching experiences it provided for its participants. The funds raised through the poker walk were presented to Lieutenant Casey Kenrick of the Pennington County Sheriff's office, allocating a generous sum of \$750.00. This act of giving back to the community further solidified the event's purpose and showcased the incredible impact that can be achieved through effective team building and collaboration. During the Cheminot, the focus extended beyond just the team building activities. It also served as a training ground for new Directeur's and officers, where they were introduced to the protocols and procedures of the event. Pronunciation of French words, an integral part of the Cheminot, was emphasized to ensure that participants paid proper respect to the rich cultural heritage of the event. Moreover, participants were taught how to effectively fill out reports and handle the regular business of La Societe.



CARVILLE STAR

Tom Adams - National Directeur

The Carville Star Program had a great 2022-2023 year and with your continued support looks forward to an even better 2023-2024 year. At Sandusky, it was my honor to recognize our award winners for 2022-2023. You are reminded that criteria for these awards are included on the Annual Consolidated Report Form. A message to Grandes and Locales; do not forget that eligibility for an award is contingent upon submission of a Consolidated Report. Like a lottery, you cannot win if you don't play. And in this case you can't win if you don't submit a Consolidated Report. (The Consolidated Report Form is found on the 40 et 8 website under the dropdown Petite Forms and Communiqué.)



Every year our Committee selects one project for which we solicit donations. The project is selected from needs of the museum or the Carville Historic District (the grounds of Carville). Our monument restoration project for 2022-2023 was a big success and a "merci" is extended to all donors to the effort. The 1922 cemetery monument (located in the first Carville cemetery) contains the names of the first 137 patients who died at Carville. It was in dire need of restoration of its bronze plaque and supporting granite. The restored monument insures the memory of those interred will be preserved.

Our first project of 2023-2024 will be completed by the time you receive this publication. We supported the production of a photography exhibit relating the story of the children and adults who called Carville home. We provided "advanced funding" for some of the project and now need donations to replenish the funds. Donations made payable to "Carville Star Program" and designated "Photography Exhibit" should be sent to our treasurer, Tom Emerson at the address below. On November 5th the project was unveiled at Tulane University's School of Tropical Medicine. This mobile exhibit will take the Carville story on the road for those who may never have an opportunity to visit Carville or understand its significance. (See the photo of a panel of the exhibit portraying the businesses that Carville patients created for income when they had no hope of leaving Carville - barber, beautician, seller of fruits and vegetables.

We continue to offer the Buy-A-Clinic and Buy-A-Country Programs. (An application for either is included on the 40&8 website under the dropdown Petite Forms and Communiqué.) Last year many Grands and Locales participated in these programs and used them to honor or memorialize individuals.

Don't forget to subscribe or renew your subscription to *The Star* for only \$2.00. *The Star* is published twice a year and continues its mission to "Radiate the Truth About Hansen's Disease" to a worldwide audience.

At Sandusky our Committee bid farewell to Sous Roger Folmar and Sous Ralph Turner both of whom served admirably for the benefit of our program. We welcome their replacements, Sous Directeur Stephen Wilfong and Sous Directeur Jerry Shepherd. Please see the information below for the Sous that is responsible for communication with your Grande and its Locales.

VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICES

D. Davis - National Directeur

I am honored beyond words to have been selected to serve as your Nationale VAVS Directeur this year. My name is D Davis. I hail from Grande du South Carolina, Voiture 1444 and I served as Grande Chef in 2019. I am a disabled Navy Gulf War Veteran, and I am passionate about taking care of Veterans and volunteering. While this position is new to me, I have served as the Sous Directeur for Area I for the past two years and I have been a VAVS volunteer for over twenty years, currently serving as hospital representative in Columbia, SC.



Welcome back Sous Directeur Berkley, and welcome Sous Directeur's Barker, Scheffler, Wade and Rivera. While we don't expect many changes to the program Directeur Rolfes has nurtured, we do have a new team this year and much has changed within our facilities due to the shutdown the past few years. Together, we will continue to serve the VAVS program.

We hit the ground running when we returned from Promenade Nationale and we have already put a few more representatives and deputy representatives in place. This is just the beginning! Are you currently registered as a volunteer? Do you keep track of everything you do as a volunteer? Are you reporting those hours to your Voiture or Cabane, and Grande? Is your Grande reporting your volunteer hours to Nationale? Did you answer "NO" to any of those questions? Let's work together to get you registered as a volunteer and get those hours reported. VAVS is a program that involves all of us and the number of volunteers and hours we report translates to our having a voice in decision making on the executive level. These hours are important, each volunteer is important, and reporting is a must.

Please encourage your facilities to send in a request for "Keep the Wheelchairs Rolling" 2024 Contest. All VA Medical Centers and State Homes have wish lists, needs and projects just beyond budget. This annual contest is a way to request assistance with something your facility would like to achieve to enrich the lives of the Veterans you serve. Compose a short letter of 200 words or less explaining what your Veteran patients need most. Include: What the item or project is. How and by whom it will be used. The unit cost, how many you're requesting, and total project cost. The flyer is available on the website.

Thank you to all our volunteers for sharing your time and talents and serving our Veterans. I wish you all a safe and prosperous year.



NATIONAL CABANE VAVS LIAISON

Greetings to all from Cabane Nationale! Allow me to introduce myself, Gena Keller, from South Dakota, you may have seen Daisy and I around on the



40&8 side of the Nationale family as a Sous Directeur for Voiture Activities, Sous Directeur of Membership and this past year, Directeur of Membership. I hold dual membership in both, as a Voyageur twenty-seven years, and La Femme for seven years. I am extremely honored to announce my acceptance of the position as VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service) Liaison. It is indeed a privilege to serve and work alongside dedicated individuals committed to supporting our veterans. As I perused the documentation received, I am pleased to discover that I will have the pleasure of joint committee responsibility. Specifically, my role will encompass the coordination of efforts between the Box Car, VAVS, and POW/MIA programs. Primarily encouraging teamwork and education to all the La Société Family.

For the uninitiated, the Joint Committee for Box Car, VAVS, and POW/MIA programs represents a collective endeavor aimed at uplifting and supporting our veterans. The Box Car program focuses on providing much-needed assistance and resources to homeless veterans, to name of few of the needed care for our veterans. The VAVS program, on the other hand, is dedicated to facilitating volunteer opportunities within the Veterans Affairs healthcare system, connecting individuals who are passionate about serving those who have served our country. Lastly, the POW/MIA program centers around the continued efforts to locate and bring our missing and imprisoned service members back home, while also offering support to their families.

As I embark on this new role, I plan to provide an opening statement within the coming month, reaffirming our commitment to the cause and highlighting our intentions for the year ahead. Moreover, I will diligently work on developing a comprehensive plan that outlines our strategies and goals for supporting our veterans. Through collaboration and effective communication, we aim to strengthen our programs and make a lasting impact on the lives of those who have selflessly served our nation.

In addition to the above, it is crucial for me, as the VAVS Liaison, to ensure that I am well-informed about the intricacies and nuances of the Box Car, VAVS, and POW/MIA programs. This includes staying up-to-date with any policy changes, program updates, and relevant guidelines. It is incumbent upon me to actively engage with the committee members, fellow liaisons, and program leaders to foster a cohesive and synergistic approach to our collective mission.

In conclusion, I am both proud and humbled to serve as the VAVS Liaison for the Joint Committee for Box Car, VAVS, and POW/MIA programs. With a steadfast commitment, we will continue to aid, support, and advocacy for our veterans, ensuring they receive the respect and care they deserve. Together, we can make a significant and positive difference in the lives of those who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

Gena Keller and Daisy
kellerpugpug@gmail.com



POW / MIA

Greetings it's another year to hit the ground running. I now have the current POWMIA pins available, just contact me the quantity needed and I will get them to you either via mail or at our next Grande or National function. These pin sales along with Pennies for POW/MIA keeps our program successful.

The scholarships we have been giving is just a small jester to show our appreciation for the devotion and sacrifice their family member gave up to secure our freedoms we take for granted. By keeping this program going we not only are supplying an education they might not be able to afford but reinforce our future generations.



Some ideas to raise funds are as simple as collecting pennies, pop tops and of course raffles. We can do the same fund raises we use for all our other projects.

With the season of giving is approaching instead of giving a present to someone who doesn't really need it make a donation in that person's name. What a wonderful way to "play it forward."

If I can be of any assistance or information on this great program feel free to reach out and I'll be more than happy to help out. Now is the season of giving.

Let us never forget!

Barbara Dotzauer - National Chairman

LA FEMME MEMBERSHIP

OCTOBER 23rd

GRANDE	2023	2024	GOAL
Alabama	16	11	68.75%
Alaska	10	10	100.00%
Arkansas	6	6	100.00%
Cabane Nationale	10	8	80.00%
Florida	110	61	55.45%
Georgia	85	70	82.35%
Illinois	82	39	47.56%
Indiana	377	152	40.32%
Louisiana	22	10	38.46%
Maine	29	10	34.48%
Massachusetts	15	15	100.00%
Michigan	164	83	50.61%
Minnesota	99	58	58.59%
Mississippi	13	14	107.69%
Missouri	21	21	100.00%
Nebraska	26	0	00.00%
New York	68	4	5.88%
North Carolina	59	22	37.29%
Ohio	11	18	163.64%
Oklahoma	35	25	71.43%
Oregon	59	27	45.76%
Pennsylvania	29	17	58.62%
South Carolina	79	51	64.56%
South Dakota	13	6	46.15%
Texas	38	22	57.89%
Virginia	9	0	00.00%
Washington	150	11	7.33%
Wisconsin	903	90	96.77%
TOTALS	1732	861	49.71%



PRESIDENTE NATIONALE LORI BOLLEY

Greetings Dames and Voyageurs of La Société. Honored does not begin to express how I feel over being elected your Nationale La Presidente. Thank you to all the Dames who have



the faith in me, who have supported me and are still supporting me in this amazing venture. I will do my best to serve the organization honorably and honestly.

I joined Cabane 946 in 2010. I have served the La Femmes in several roles on the Locale, Grande, and Nationale level. My eligibility was through my Grandfather Hugh Wiggins an Army Veteran. I am a mother of two daughters and have two grandchildren.

I greatly look forward to working with the Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank Campo, in what I believe will be a very successful year. With everyone's support hopefully both the Voiture and Cabane can meet and exceed 100% membership this year.

My program this year is POW MIA, this scholarship program allows us the opportunity to give back a little something to the families that lost so much. The usual goal is \$3,000, after looking at what we reached last year, which was just over \$5000, I am setting my goal at \$6000. I believe that we can do better every year if we just set our goals a little higher.

My motto is KIND, Keep Involving Newer Dames. It is my opinion that everything can be done with kindness. Teach don't criticize, explain don't dictate. I believe with kindness we can grow as an organization and without it we will not survive.

I had the absolute pleasure of attending Grande du Pennsylvania fall Cheminot, for the purpose of speaking with their Dames on bringing back Grande de Pennsylvania. I wanted to say what a tremendous honor that was, I enjoyed myself immensely and to have Voyageurs who want and know the value of having a Cabane to aid and support them was truly humbling. I would like to say Thank you Grande Chef Joe Warren for allowing me the opportunity to speak at his Cheminot, David Kessling and Dustine Spoon for the incredible invitation and to everyone in Pennsylvania for not only the wonderful hospitality and kindness but for the opportunity to speak with you on hopefully getting a Grande cabane back in the wonderful state of Pennsylvania. I met so many wonderful people on my trip, Thank you.

My homecoming is being planned for May 10-11; I will be blocking rooms from the 9th thru the 12th. It will be in Lansing Michigan with details coming shortly. I look forward to seeing all of you down the road, stay safe and healthy.

For the Good of La Société - Lori A. Bolley



Visiting the Grande Cabane du Pennsylvania for their Fall Cheminot October 20th - 21st.

PROMENADE NATIONALE SANDUSKY, OHIO



Award winners at the National Box Car meeting.



Past National Presidente's at the Friday banquet.



Hallie Williams of Missouri receives a Nurses Training award from Nat. Directeur Bob Hickey



Dames working the raffle table.



National Color Guard from the Grande du Louisiana pose with National dignitaries after competition.



Dames getting ready for their Installation.



New keeper of the Paul Bunyun gavel. Grand Chef de Gare William Slater of the Grande du North Carolina.



Mildred Wright-Pearson accepts the Charles W. Ardry award on behalf of California Voiture Locale #365 from National Child Welfare Directeur Joe Donovan.



Paul Emmert, Virgil Blum and Lonnie Haynes show the poster of the 75th Anniversary of the Merci Box Car Train that was raffled off.



An original 40 et 8 POW / MIA bolo tie was auctioned off during the Friday evening banquet. The bolo was from PNP Joyce Robberstad. The bolo was purchased by Tim Evans of Kansas who then presented it to Minnesota Grand Chef de Gare Gary Miller who was a Prisoner of War in Vietnam. L to R: Joyce Robberstad, Gary Miller and Tim Evans of Kansas. The purchase price was \$310 which was donated to the POW / MIA Program.



Victor Graulau of Virginia receiving a Carville Star Award from National Directeur Tom Adams.



Grand Chef de Gare Celeste Latham of Illinois congratulates Grand Chef North Carolina Bill Slater winning the Paul Bunyun gavel and not her!



Working the Registration table.



On behalf of the Grande du Tennessee, Gary Cox receives the Rodney Strickland Box Car Award from Box Car Secretaire Virgil Blum.




Chef Frank Kronen along with Sous Chef's Terry Chatfield, Janie Miller, Deb Reynolds and Steve Dierks showing their membership awards.



Some of the Voyageurs from the Grande du Missouri at the Friday evening banquet.

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City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Payment by Check? (Enter Check Number) _____

Payment by Credit Card? (Check one below)

VISA MasterCard Discover

Card Number: _____

Card Exp. Date: Month _____ Year _____ CVV _____

Quantity	Description	Amount
#	Voyageur's Registration @ \$40.00 (NON-REFUNDABLE)	\$ _____
#	Voyageur's Late Reg. Fee (AFTER 8/1/24) @ \$20.00	\$ _____
#	Grande Voyageur _____	Voyeur Local: _____
#	Dame's Registration @ \$20.00	\$ _____
#	Grande Cathone _____	Cathone Local: _____
#	La President Luncheon (9/12/24) @ \$25.00	\$ _____
#	Early Bird (9/10/24) Tickets @ \$30.00	\$ _____
#	Request (9/13/24) Tickets @ \$40.00 each	\$ _____

Select one meal for each person:
 Pan Seared Bone in Chicken _____
 Lemon Garlic Baked Salmon _____

REGISTRATION AND RESERVATIONS

NOTE: ALL VOYAGEURS & DAMES MUST REGISTER WITH THE PROMENADE NATIONALE CORPORATION. Complete this form as applicable and either provide your credit card information or make your check payable to "105th Promenade Nationale Corp." Then mail form and payment to:
 Voyageur Nationale
 250 East 38th Street
 Indianapolis, IN 46205
 Or Email to Taylor@fortyandeight.org

THE KALAHARI RESORT IS FOR BOTH VOYAGEURS & DAMES
 ALL VOYAGEURS & DAMES WILL BE EXPECTED TO MAKE THEIR RESERVATION WITH THE RESORT DIRECTLY
 THERE IS A LINK ON OUR WEBSITE OR YOU CAN CALL 1-413-433-7200 MAKE SURE TO LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE THERE FOR THE 105th 40/8 PROMENADE

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY AUGUST 1, 2024
 Registrations you may send in until the end of August 2024

NOTE: REGISTRATION FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE
 Additional Fees are on line at www.fortyandeight.org

HANDICAP ROOMS ARE LIMITED. PLEASE CONSIDER THE WHEN MAKING YOUR REQUEST. HANDICAP ROOMS ARE ASSIGNED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS

NOTE: Rates ONLY available through Promenade Nationale Corporation


2024 Contest "Keep the Wheelchairs Rolling"

All VA Medical Centers and State Homes have wish lists, needs and projects just beyond budget. This annual contest is a way to request assistance with something your facility would like to achieve to enrich the lives of the veterans you serve.

Compose a short letter of 200 words or less explaining what your veteran patients need most.
 Include: What the item or project is.
 How and by whom it will be used.
 The unit cost.
 How many you're requesting, and
 Total project cost.

Entries must be received by March 31, 2024.
 Entries must be e-mailed as mailed.

@ Davis
 National Director VAWWS/DWH
 1540 Hollyhock Rd., Lugoff, SC 29078
VeteranGoodLife@email.com



Great Western Promenade 2024

Washington

A colorful past, a bright future.

Save the Dates!

The Grande Du Washington invites you to join us April 10-13, 2024 in beautiful Vancouver, USA!
 We look forward to welcoming you!
 We have several outings planned,
 PT Boat 658, the last operational
 World War II Torpedo Boat

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and Environs
 Golfing at Tri-Mountain Golf Course & Ilani Casino
 Registration forms and more information will be out soon.
 Contact: v-99correspondant@voiture-99.com for more info.

CENTRAL STATES PROMENADE 2024

APRIL 18 - 21, 2024



Inn of the Hills
 Hotel & Conference Center
 1001 Junction Highway, Kerrville, Texas
 830-885-5000 or 800-292-5690 www.innofhills.com

Rate: Rooms King or Queen/Queen: \$119 single or double, \$129 triple, \$149 quad plus tax.
 A limited number of Cabana Queen/Queen (pool view) are \$129 plus tax.

RESERVATION LINK:

<https://res.wyndorferres.com/details.aspx?propertyid=16598& nights=1&checkin=4/18/2024&group=2404SOCE>

When booking your group and click dates of arrival and date of check out and click on the link that says "update" Select your room type and hit book it. Follow to the end.

For Reservations by phone call 1-800-292-5690
GROUP NAME: Society of 40 Men & 8 Horses – Spring Conference

Please make your reservations as soon as possible.
 NO CANCELLATION FEES UP TO 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE EVENT!
CUT-OFF DATE FOR GUARANTEED RESERVATIONS IS MARCH 19, 2024

Pet Policy: Service Animals Only. Hotel is Non-Smoking.

Questions: Contact David Knutson at: dk3002@gmail.com or 512-736-2377
 Or CSP President Keith Reiss Jr at: prasadcheffexas@gmail.com or 254-768-8155



The Voyageurs & Dames of Grande du & de Wisconsin

63RD GREAT LAKES PROMENADE

Wisconsin - Michigan
Illinois - Indiana - Ohio
New York - Pennsylvania
June 6, 7 & 8th, 2024



Hotel Information
You are responsible for making your own reservations

LaQuinta by Wyndham
3800 W College Ave, Appleton WI 53914

HOTEL RATE: Single or Double Queen, King \$75 plus tax per night
Free Continental Breakfast Code: Great Lakes 40 & 8 Promenade
Microwave, Refrigerator, WIFI Hotel Direct Line-920-734-7777
Fitness Center Room Block Held Until: May 6th 2024
Accessible rooms available

To View the Hotel and its guest rooms, amenities, local restaurants and the Fox Valley attractions visit the following website links:

<http://www.wyndhamhotels.com/laquinta/appleton-wisconsin/la-quinta-appleton-college-avenue?overView?checkInDate=06/05/2024&checkOutDate=06/09/2024&groupCode=40&L624>
www.foxcities.org

Program Ad Information

Great way to advertise your future Grand & Local events seen by 40 & 8 members of the Great Lakes State's. 63RD GREAT LAKES PROMENADE Program Booklet will be 5% x 8%

Full-page: \$50.00 Checks: Voiture 1140
Half-page: \$25.00 Program Ads: Word format and Email to: edelblutejohn@gmail.com
Deadline: We must have received your ad, booster sheet & payment by: May 10th, 2024



CHEF DE CHEMIN DE FER FRANK CAMPO'S HOMECOMING

MARCH 7 - 9, 2024
NORTHFIELD INN & SUITES
3280 NORTHFIELD DRIVE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS. 62702
217-523-7900

Come join us as we celebrate the Homecoming of our Chef de Chemin de Fer, Frank Campo. All events will be held at the host hotel, Northfield Inn and Suites. Room rates are \$89.00 for king/double queen or \$115.00 for king suite, all rates do not include sales tax which is currently 14%. **Make reservations directly with hotel and mention "40 & 8". Cut-off date is February 22, 2024, for reservations and ads.** The hotel is a short 5 minute drive from the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport. For those arriving by air, please contact the hotel the day before to arrange pickup. There are plenty of restaurants nearby and the American Legion and VFW post are a short drive.

Besides our honored Chef, Springfield is the home of Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States. The only home he ever owned is open to the public to tour. His final resting place is at Oak Ridge Cemetery and is the second most visited cemetery in the country besides Arlington National Cemetery. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is open to the public and charges a nominal fee for entrance. Springfield is also one of the stops on Historic Route 66 and home to the "cave dog".

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday	Hospitality Room	3:00 P.M. to closing
Friday	Hospitality Room	9:00 A.M. to closing
Friday	Registration	12:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Saturday	Hospitality Room	9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
	Cash Bar	8:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
	Banquet Dinner	7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Program Booklet

1/2 Page	\$40.00
Full Page	\$80.00
Booster Names	\$ 2.00 Each

Meals: Choice of Chicken Cordon Bleu or Stuffed Roasted Pork Loin w/spinach, pine nuts, & onions. All meals include mushroom rice pilaf, honey glazed carrots, tossed salad, rolls, dessert, iced tea or coffee. Banquet tickets are \$50.00 each.

Booster Names: _____ Program Ad: _____
Banquet Chicken _____ Banquet Pork _____
Total for Ads, Boosters and Banquet \$ _____
Send Registration & Payment to: Jodee Crutts - Campo
3 Lydia Lane, Riverton, Illinois, 62561
Email Ads to fcampo@lino.com



38th Annual Gator Wreck

Hosted by:
Voiture & Cabane 1067
May 2nd, 3rd, 4th 2024
Goose Creek, SC

****NOTICE DATE CHANGE and HOTEL CHANGE****

Registration \$60.00 per person (includes Hospitality room at hotel and Saturday night Banquet). **Non Voiture 1067 PG's must register prior to 12 April, 2024. Fee is \$65.00 which includes supplies, breakfast and Banquet. Sponsors responsible for PG's Chapeau.**

Friday: Registration in Hospitality room 12:00 Noon - 4:00 PM @ Wingate.

Then off to American Legion Post 166 for Dinner (Post menu) 6:00- 7:30 PM or where ever you want to eat. PG Trials @ 8:00 pm.

Saturday:
PG's report to Post 166 at 6:00 am.
Active Wreck 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sausage Biscuits, Donuts and Coffee will be available at the post.

Social Hour 5-7 pm (cash bar), Dinner 7-8 pm, Banquet 8-9 pm @ Post 166

Sunday Morning Breakfast available (order from menu) at the Post 8-11am

Headquarters Hotel Wingate by Wyndham
9280 University Blvd, Charleston SC 29406
Direct Line: 843-553-4444
Room Rate: Thursday- Saturday- \$89.00 plus tax... BREAKFAST AVAILABLE
CUT-OFF for Rate: 1 April, 2024
Mention code: 40/8 Gator Wreck

For additional information contact, William "Bill" Simpson, Wreck Chairman 843-509-3109 or e-mail wsimpson204@comcast.net

PROGRAM BOOK (5 X 7) ADS:
Full page--\$50.00
Half page--\$35.00
Cut off for Ads: April 19th, 2024
Email ads to wsimpson204@comcast.net
Mail payment to: Dell Simpson
288 Mayfield Dr, Goose Creek, SC 29445.
Phone # 843-830-9986

Cabane 1067 will have lunch available Saturday from 11:00 am- 1:00 pm (TBD)

SHUTTLE SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____ VOITURE: _____ STATE: _____
OFFICE: _____ PHONE#: _____
DAME /GUEST NAME: _____
OFFICE: _____ CABANE#: _____ STATE: _____

Make checks payable to Voiture 1067 and mail to Dell Simpson, 288 Mayfield Dr Goose Creek SC 29445 for pre-registration.



Southland's Dixie Promenade 2024

April 18 - 20, 2024
Embassy Suites Hotel
Greensboro, North Carolina

REGISTRATION BADGES WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL EVENTS

Name: Last _____ First _____

Name: Last _____ First _____

Voiture Locale #: _____ or Cabane Locale #: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Registration must be received and paid for by 4/2/24 for Banquet

Registration Fee: \$70.00 X _____ = \$ _____
Includes Friday Pasta Dinner, Hospitality Room, Banquet, and Pin
Banquet Choice: Pork _____ or Chicken _____
Early Bird Carolina BBQ Thursday at 6:00 PM \$30.00 X _____ = \$ _____
Trip to NC Transportation Museum /NC Boxcar* 25.00 X _____ = \$ _____
* (Transportation, Lunch & veteran memorial) Total \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: Grand du North Carolina Reference Southland Dixie NC in memo and mail to: Bob Hickey 1204 Phipps Ave, Greensboro, NC 27405

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: should be made directly to the Hotel, Before April 5, 2024, Embassy Suites Hotel, 204 Centerport Drive, Greensboro, NC Ph.# 336-668-4595. Mention **40&8 Dixie** to receive the reduced price of \$129.00 per night for King, and \$139.00 for Double, if, you need any special needs, please make sure you request them at the time you are booking. **Free Breakfast with Eggs to order and free afternoon Managers Cocktail Party with 2 drinks and snacks and Free Parking.**