

# FORTY ET EIGHTER

The official publication of

Summer 2023

## La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux



AMERICANISM  
CARVILLE STAR  
CHILD WELFARE  
GENERALS CLUB  
GERMANY CLUB  
NATIONAL BOX CAR  
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PUBLIC RELATIONS  
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YOUTH SPORTS

### MEMORIAL DAY AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY



Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank Kronen & National Cabane Presidente Robbie Garland along with other National Voiture and Cabane Officers paying respects to the founder of the Forty et Eight; the Joseph W. Breen grave site.



The massing of the colors in front of the National Memorial Amphitheater.

**VOITURE NATIONALE OFFICERS 2022 - 2023**

Frank Kronen	Chef de Chemin de Fer	Ohio
Terry Sims	Correspondant National	Indiana
Deb Reynolds	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	Florida
Janie Miller	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	France
Steve Dircks	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	Minnesota
Terry Chatfield	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	North Carolina
William Stroud	Avocat	Louisiana
William Streuber	Aumonier	South Carolina
Dan Dumas	Commissaire Intendant	California
David Cook	Conducteur	Ohio
Ron Pfalzgraf	Historien	Wisconsin

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# CHEF DE CHEMIN DE FER FRANK KRONEN ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

Due to situations beyond the control of the Ohio Promenade Corporation, we have been forced to make drastic changes!!!

We have released back to Kalahari the Marrakesh Bar which was supposed to be for Promenade Nationale use only. As you all know we were to have \$ 3.00 beers. And open from 11:00 A.M. till 10:00 P.M. Also, Kalahari went to a cashless venue. So for any beverage ordered at any Kalahari drink venue a automatic 24% tip was included in any purchase.

The Ohio Promenade Corporation will now offer a Hospitality Room during our time frame. Now here is where we must appeal for Help. Since we decided to act on this matter at this late a date, The Ohio Promenade Corporation now has no time left for fund raisers to adequately supply the Hospitality Room with sufficient inventory. So, we are appealing to all Grand Voitures within La Societe for donations, be they monetary or donations of food or spirits and beer. They will **STRICTLY** be used for the Hospitality Room so all Voyageurs, Dames and guests can have the fun we are all accustomed to. Monetary donations should be addressed to the Ohio Promenade Corporation Secretaire Frank W Kronen 6903 Chapel Ln. North Ridgeville, Oh. 44039-2944. Only with your help can we make this a success.... Frank W. Kronen Secretary Ohio Promenade Corporation.

The last issue of the 40 & 8er ended with me heading to Indiana for the Nurses Training Banquet in Lafayette Indiana and it was a beautiful event with great food, fun and 23 scholarships were awarded, each worth \$ 2000. The next day we drove to Shelbyville Indiana for the RAZBERRY. This is where Terry (AKA DEAN MARTIN) Sims. Roasted me like a Thanksgiving Turkey. This was the Indiana equivalent. One fun and crazy time. The next day, Sunday we had the Chef's Wreck. Absolutely Outstanding. It did rain periodically but they were PG's, goes with the territory. Now during the Promenade I made as always attempts to acquire Wrecking Chef Mike Worrell's gavel. Sorry to report I was unsuccessful. Came close but no cigar. My next event was the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Gator Wreck in Goose Creek South Carolina. Much to the PG's surprise, the Evil Jester returned to examine all the PG's. Great Fun Times. In the picture supplied the first PG the Jester stood in front of would not look into his eyes. Much fun as we all are accustomed to.

Next was the solemn Memorial Day Wreath Laying. In my entire life I have never experienced anything of this magnitude. Incredible. It was an emotional and rewarding experience that I believe all previous Chef de Chemin de Fer's have felt.

The very next weekend found me in that state up north as we Buckeye's call it. Okemos, Michigan for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Great Lakes Promenade. Friday started off with Bloody Mary's provided by next year's host Grand de Wisconsin. Mixologist John Vissers served them up After the Bloody Mary's, Madame President Robbie Garland and I placed a Wreath at a monument in a Veterans Memorial Park. Next, the Voyageurs traveled to a local VFW for a Sloppy Joe lunch followed by a trip to Past Grand Chef Jim Coe's American Legion. During the events of the evening we were treated to Voyageurs doing what it takes to become members of the Indiana Coin Club. Saturday was the actual business of the Great Lakes with the Promenade business conducted after the Memorial Service.

The evening brought the banquet, and the food was delicious along with Great Comradery as usual.

The weekend of June 23<sup>rd</sup> through June 25<sup>th</sup> was my own Grand Promenade, where low and behold, I was elected to once again serve as Grand Chef de Train after my term as Chef de Chemin de Fer is completed. I will be installed at Fall Grand Cheminot in October. The West Virginia Grand Promenade on July 15<sup>th</sup> Was as always Great Comradery and Fraternal Friendship. I was accompanied as usual by National Aide de Camp and Ohio Past Grand Chef William Conrad. I had the honor of installing Donald Lambert of Voiture 1117 Elkins West Virginia as Grand Chef de Gare.

This was followed by the installation of the remaining Grande Officers for the 2023 2024 Year. This past weekend I attended the Grand du Indiana Grand Promenade in Fort Wayne. A great time was had by all. I had the Honor of installing the new Grand Chef de Gare and all the other officers.

Next on my calendar is this weekend's trip to Colonial Heights, Virginia for their Grand Promenade, followed by Grand du Michigan on the weekend of August 11-13<sup>th</sup>. This year has been one of the most exciting and enjoyable years of my life. And I once again Thank you for allowing me to be your Chef de Chemin de Fer. And as Promenade

Nationale draws closer, I look forward to having fun and comradery with you all again in 7 weeks!



## Travels With The Chef de Chemin de Fer



Having fun at the Gator Wreck



The evil jester meeting the PG's



Having fun with Voyageur of the Year Passe Terry Lee



With Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer's Janie Miller, Debra Reynolds and Steve Dircks for Memorial Day weekend in Arlington, VA.



## GRANDE DU OREGON



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Janie Miller installs Dan Evers as the new Grand Chef de Gare at their Grande Promenade in Lebanon.

## GRANDE DU SOUTH DAKOTA



South Dakota Voyageurs next to one of their locomotives at their recently concluded Grande Promenade.





## TIME AND PLACE

The National Promenade this year and next year will be at the Kalahari Hotel and Resort in Sandusky, OH. The Kalahari is a large Hotel. It has a large indoor water park. Outside it has a Safari outdoor zoo, miniature golf and 1 ½ mile walking trail around the resort. They have zip lines for the daring of heart. There is a lot for the kids to do, so bring the kids and grandkids. The Kalahari has a 20% discount on their full-service spa and salon equipped with a new float tank to float your cares away. There are 6 restaurants and 5 lounges.

There are many tourist attractions nearby. Cedar Point, Lake Erie Islands, fishing, clay pigeon shooting, golf, and wineries. Centrally located between Toledo and Cleveland are casinos and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

In 2025 and 2026 the National Promenade will be in Baltimore, Maryland. I will have more information on this hotel at a later date.

I hope to see a lot of you at The National Promenade this year.

**Jim Maxwell - Chairman Time and Place**

## CARVILLE STAR

### The Power of Volunteering

By Tom Adams - National Directeur

A small community about 10 miles from my home just suffered devastation from an EF-2 tornado damaging or destroying over 100 homes and businesses. Volunteers from across our state arrived the day after the tornado to assist in debris removal and cleanup. Those who live along the Gulf Coast or tornado-prone areas know that without adequate assistance from volunteers the resumption of "normal" activity after storms will be delayed.

Volunteers are an essential part of our world. All of us are beneficiaries of the work of volunteers. However, volunteers will tell you that they derive great benefits from volunteering. As Gandhi said "the best way to lighten our load is to take the load of someone else on our shoulder." Aren't we blessed to be part of an organization that gives us diverse opportunities to volunteer? It should not be difficult to find "causes" in La Société programs that we can be passionate about - Child Welfare, Youth Sports, Nurses Training, VAVS, Carville Star, POW/MIA and Americanism provide diverse opportunities to help those in need. As Membership Directeur Gina Keller said in her Membership Matters Newsletter, Without our members, our programs and projects would not exist. But because of each one of you, we have been able to make a real impact in our communities and in the lives of our fellow Veterans. So, my wish for you all is simple: embrace all that La Société has to offer. There is truly a program or project for everyone, and each one of you has something unique and valuable to contribute.

So the next time your Voiture or Grand is looking for a Directeur, Committee Member, or some Voyageurs to help with a project, consider volunteering.

Carville Star Specifics: 1. Please consider our **Buy-A-Country and Buy-A-Clinic Programs**. An order form for them is found on the 40 & 8 website at the "Resources" drop-down under "Petit Forms and Communique." When requested on the form they can be used to honor or memorialize an individual.

2. Our **latest fund-raising effort** is in support of a project that will take the story of Carville "on the

road" through a mobile pictorial display. This project will be an "outreach" to bring Carville to those who might never visit the museum or the "grounds" of the Carville Historic District. Donations designated "Carville Star mobile pictorial display" are welcomed and should be sent to Treasurer, Tom Emerson, 615 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Garnett KS 66032.

3. All are encouraged to support *The STAR* by subscribing. **A subscription form for *The STAR*** is found on the 40&8 website at "Resources" drop-down under "Petit Forms and Communique." *The STAR* is published twice a year with a subscription cost of \$2.00.

## RITUAL

This is the time of the year to review Chapter 2 **Installation of Officers** in the Blue Ritual and Manual of Ceremonies. It is important to install your new officers on the Grande and Locale levels. This Ritual instructs the new officers to learn the requirements of their new office and become thoroughly acquainted with the rules and regulations of La Societe.

The six instructions in Chapter 2 begin with the two ways an Installation can be conducted -either as part of a regular Promenade of by itself with guests invited; who should be the Installing officer (I O); where the "I O" should be seated; appointment of an Acting Conducteur and Acting Aumonier to assist with the Installation; and instructions for the Correspondant and obtaining a Chef de Gare Passe pin.

Read the Chapter 2 instructions for a smooth installation ceremony.

At Promenade Nationale in September your National Ritual Committee will meet and discuss changes in the Ritual of Celebration for the Birthday of La Societe de Quarante Hommes et Huit Cheveaux (The Birthday Ritual) as well as other business Voyageurs may bring to the Ritual meeting. I hope many of you can attend and express your views.

## CHILD WELFARE

Voyageurs All: Greetings and welcome to summer! I look forward to seeing many of you in Sandusky for our National Promenade. I will have our 2024 pins available there, but heck, why wait till September? You can order them now from me. Still \$3.00ea or prepayment orders of 100 or more pins are \$2.75ea. Due to shipping costs, I request orders of at least 25 pins.

Speaking of our upcoming National Promenade, that's where I am required to report YOUR activity during the 2023 Fiscal Year! That's where YOUR reports become necessary. As of this writing, I have received reports from CA, FL, FR, IL, IN, KS, ME, MI, MN, NE, NY, OH, SC, TX, WA, and WI. That's 16 Grandes, one of whom spent 60cents postage to submit "NO REPORT"! That Grande even bought pins and still didn't even report their membership! It's pretty sad, why do they even belong if they don't support our program by reporting their activity. As for the rest of you Grande Voitures, where are your reports? My deadline imposed by the National Trophy Committee WAS July 15. I will accept your Grande Voiture reports until Thursday September 14 in Sandusky or e-mail [jdonovan4660@hotmail.com](mailto:jdonovan4660@hotmail.com) for my report to the Promenade. Times a-wasting! MERCI!

Joe Donovan

National Directeur Child Welfare

## NATIONAL BOX CAR ASSOCIATION

The Box Car program has been busy this year! I want to thank the Grands who have participated in the Box Car program! To the Grands that did not participate - I would like you to try to find a way to help this year, we have Sous Box Car Directeur's that cover every state and region in the 40&8. 2024 Pins are for sale now for \$3.00. Crew cards are \$1.00. Association cards \$1.00. Please continue to buy and sell our items. Every dollar of our proceeds is donated and used every year and we need these funds to make a difference.

The Merci Maintenance deadline has past July 1<sup>st</sup>. \$150.00 is given to every Grande that completes the form and buys at least \$150.00 of Box Car pins or cards. 17 Grands and applications have been received and approved. If your state has a Merci Box Car, please get the needed paperwork from me. I am now taking the paper work for July 2024 deadline.

If your Grande plans to have your locomotive at Sandusky, OH for the 2023 Nationale Promenade, please contact me or Director Paul Emmert Sr.

It has been a privilege to serve this past year as Finance / Secetaire for Box Car. I have enjoyed the many new friends and Voyageurs that I have met this past year in my travels. Next year is planning to be another exciting year.

Virgil Blum

7511 S. 128<sup>th</sup> St.

Omaha NE 68138

Cell: 402-779-6827.

Email: [virg4huskers@yahoo.com](mailto:virg4huskers@yahoo.com)

Director

Paul Emmert Sr.

345 Moores Branch Circle

Westminster MD 21158

Cell: 443-745-1948.

Email [pjemmertsr@comcast.net](mailto:pjemmertsr@comcast.net)

## GRANDE DU OREGON NURSES TRAINING

Voiture 316 Grande du Oregon was honored to present Amy Oaks Nurse of the Year. On the 25th of May 2023 the Voiture was able to present her the award. Bay Area Hospital has become a great supporter of the Nurses Training and we have created a long-time partnership to help us honor the men and women of the Nursing profession who give so much back to our community. Having support from the CEO of the hospital and all the staff made this event even more enjoyable. I want to thank Sandra Maddux for making things happen by getting the supervisors to nominate the Nurses and providing the space to present the award, but also the food to celebrate this wonderful occasion. We look forward to next year when we can honor another Nurse for the work they do.



L-R Chef du Gare Local Paul Trauex, Nationale Sous Directeur Nurses Training Kevin Owens, Lampiste Local Lou Kolkhorst, Norm Fraser, and Amy Oaks

# MEMBERSHIP

Gena Keller  
National Directeur

Wow, what a ride! This has been a rollercoaster of a year, filled with all sorts of emotions. It has been wild, fun, frustrating, enthusiastic - and let's not forget, full of some unforgettable memories. And you know what? None of this would have been possible without all of you, the fabulous members of this amazing community!



We've come together as a team, building strong connections and forging lifelong friendships. It's like we've assembled our own superhero squad, with each of you bringing your own unique powers to the table. Together, we have made incredible strides in expressing to our communities the incredible opportunities that the 40&8 has to offer.

But my friends, as we wrap up this membership year, let's not forget that our efforts to grow this organization are far from over. We can't just sit back and relax like a sloth on a hammock sipping margaritas (although that does sound pretty tempting). We need to keep the momentum going, continue doing what we're doing, and give everyone out there a reason to belong to this extraordinary group.

So, my fellow adventurers, let's unleash our creativity and bring forth ideas that will make people go, "Wow, I need to be a part of this!" Give them a reason to stay involved, to stick with us through thick and thin. Maybe we can organize a treasure hunt where the prize is an unlimited supply of ice cream or create a secret handshake that leaves everyone in awe. Whatever it takes, let's show the world that being a part of this organization is like being part of a never-ending party.

Together, we can achieve the impossible, the unimaginable, and the downright hilarious. Let's make this upcoming year even crazier, even more jam-packed with laughter and camaraderie. So my friends, put on your party hats, buckle up, and get ready for another exciting adventure with the 40 & 8. The fun has just begun!

## VOYAGEUR SPOTLIGHT

### VERLIN FUNKHOUSER



Grande du Illinois Voyageur Verlin Funkhouser is a 54 year member of La Societe and has been a main stay at all National Promenades for 40 plus years. He is Chairman of Trophy and Awards taking over for Terry Bigham.

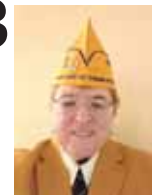
You'll see Verlin and wife Phyllis at all Grande functions, Great Lakes Promenades and of course National Promenades and Homecomings. *Merci beaucoup to Verlin!*

# MEMBERSHIP 2023

## July 27th, 2023

	AREA	2022	2023	PERCENT
ALABAMA	3	99	97	97.98%
ALASKA	2	119	132	110.92%
ARIZONA	2	383	387	101.04%
ARKANSAS	1	75	74	98.67%
CALIFORNIA	4	674	602	89.32%
COLORADO	1	65	49	75.38%
CONNECTICUT	3	113	105	92.92%
DELAWARE	3	23	27	117.39%
DIST OR COLUMBIA	3	14	15	107.14%
FLORIDA	3	571	517	90.54%
FRANCE	2	96	98	102.08%
GEORGIA	4	350	294	84.00%
GERMANY	4	72	68	94.44%
IDAHO	4	87	95	109.20%
ILLINOIS	3	999	935	93.59%
INDIANA	1	2061	1947	94.47%
IOWA	3	227	220	96.92%
KANSAS	3	320	288	90.00%
KENTUCKY	4	184	148	80.43%
LATIN AMERICA	2	5	10	200.00%
LOUISIANA	4	487	462	94.87%
MAINE	1	86	86	100.00%
MARYLAND	2	208	208	100.00%
MASSACHUSETTS	2	96	101	105.21%
MICHIGAN	2	760	724	95.26%
MINNESOTA	4	913	858	93.98%
MISSISSIPPI	2	133	124	93.23%
MISSOURI	3	673	682	101.34%
MONTANA	1	73	73	100.00%
NEBRASKA	4	281	264	93.95%
NEVADA	4	20	17	85.00%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1	76	68	89.47%
NEW JERSEY	4	63	57	90.48%
NEW MEXICO	1	22	9	40.91%
NEW YORK	2	715	684	95.66%
NORTH CAROLINA	1	459	458	99.78%
NORTH DAKOTA	4	176	166	94.32%
OHIO	3	1023	991	96.87%
OKLAHOMA	1	94	108	114.89%
OREGON	2	151	140	92.72%
PENNSYLVANIA	2	927	855	92.23%
SOUTH CAROLINA	4	273	250	91.58%
SOUTH DAKOTA	1	320	323	100.94%
TENNESSEE	3	53	59	111.32%
TEXAS	2	231	246	106.49%
UTAH	1	15	14	93.33%
VERMONT	3	28	28	100.00%
VIRGINIA	4	330	324	98.18%
WASHINGTON	2	430	415	96.51%
WEST VIRGINIA	2	110	129	117.27%
WISCONSIN	1	855	819	95.79%
WYOMING	3	18	22	122.22%
V2000		413	433	104.84%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>17049</b>	<b>16305</b>	<b>95.64%</b>

AREA	2022	2023	Percent	
Area - 2 <b>Janie Miller</b>	4364	4253	97.46%	1st Place
Area - 1 <b>Terry Chatfield</b>	4201	4028	95.88%	2nd Place
Area - 3 <b>Deb Reynolds</b>	4161	3986	95.79%	3rd Place
Area - 3 <b>Steve Dircks</b>	3910	3605	92.20%	4th Place
V-2000	413	433	104.84%	



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer  
Janie Miller



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer  
Debra Reynolds



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer  
Steve Dircks



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer  
Terry Chatfield





## VETERANS ADMINISTRATION VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Ron Rolfes

Nationale Directeur

Before I get into the meat of my article, I want to pass on my gratitude to the Grand du North Carolina for their southern hospitality the weekend of 13-16 July 2023. This was the weekend of their Grande Promenade, and I had the honor and pleasure of being their Nationale guest. I was greeted at the Greensboro airport by Cheminot Nationale James Bowman and after a short ride over to Winston-Salem we arrived at the hotel where I got checked into my room and then over to Hospitality for some libations before dinner. There waiting was Grande Chef de Gare Bob Hickey and his wife Madame Presidente (aka the queen of WOO!) Cindy. To my surprise Chef de Chemin der Fer 2004 Joe Jammick and his wife PNP 2019,21 Cheryl as well as PNP 2022 Janet Walsh had also made the trip. After dinner there was more meeting and greeting in the hospitality room that went well into the evening. The next morning Friday, I had the opportunity to have some really good discussion with the Dames on how to better collaborate regarding the VAVS program. I think that we will be able to make a lot of progress in 2024. Later that afternoon we headed over to the American Legion Post 55 for dinner which was conveniently located just across the street from the hotel. Saturday morning was a memorial service, their Cheminot, Grande Promenade and Elections where William "Bill" Slater was elected to the position of Grande Chef de Gare for the 2024 membership year. Saturday evening brought the banquet, and you guessed it more Hospitality. On Sunday James and I stopped for some lunch before heading back to the airport. This was another trip that will go down in the history books as one of my most memorable trips. Many thanks go out to the Bob and Cindy Hickey and their crew for putting on a great show. I also want to give a shout out to Cabane 92 for their hard work throughout the weekend. Again, Thank You all for everything!

When I took this job seventeen years ago, I honestly really did not know what VAVS was all about, but it did not take me long to figure out that this is my calling, my passion and hell even why I became a Voyageur some 30 plus years ago. "To help our fellow Veterans, to pay it forward if you will." I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to lead what I would consider La Societe's most important but sometimes forgotten program. This program is what we as Voyageurs do or should be doing each day, *Serving Veterans*.

I want to share a quick story that happened while on that recent trip that I spoke of earlier to North Carolina. After the banquet was over and we were packing things up to head out, I received one of the best compliments any Directeur can receive. A Voyageur came up to me shook my hand and proceeded to thank me for being there and for the short speech I gave on the VAVS program during the Promenade earlier in the day. He went on to say that because of what was said he spoke to his Grande leadership and volunteered to become the new VAVS Directeur for North Carolina and that why he joined the 40 & 8 because he wanted to serve Veterans.

Many have the misconception that you need to go to a VA Facility or State Home and volunteer. Well, that statement is true regarding representation on a VA Voluntary Service (CDCE) Committee. We as Voyageurs and Dames can serve Veterans daily by something like a simple phone call (Buddy

Check) to see how they are doing to taking them to an appointment. I think you get my point. The problem though, is that those hours are easily forgotten when it comes time to reporting. Next time reports come around, think about the little things that touch the lives of a Veteran and write them down.

Since this will be my final article as your VAVS Nationale Directeur, I want to take this opportunity to thank the leadership through the years that had the faith in me to manage this program over the years. I also want to thank the TEAM, all the Sous Directeur's, past and present. Without you all, the VAVS program would not be what it is today. So, Thank You. Lastly, I want to thank all the Volunteers that work tirelessly at the VA facilities across the country. You embrace everything that the program stands for and are the mainstay of the program. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve our organization in this capacity over the years and I look forward to my new adventure with La Societe.

## GRANDE DU ALABAMA



"Chef de Gare" Norm Ginther, Alabama Voiture 242 (Millbrook/Prattville), presents a check for \$10,242 to Dr. Julie Freeman, Associate Dean of AUM School of Nursing, to help support their Nursing program."

## GRANDE DE WISCONSIN



VAVS National Sous Directeur John Edelblute presents Chief of Voluntary Services Jessica Serdyski of the Milwaukee VA with a Keep Those Wheel Chairs Running \$400.00 check that was donated to the annual baby shower event held in August for expectant Veteran mothers.

## GRANDE DU NORTH DAKOTA



"Passing the Gavel" to new North Dakota Voiture 101 Chef de Gare Michael Venaccio by Grand Chef de Gare David Kaufman after the new installation of officers May 2, 2023.

## GRANDE DU IOWA



At the Iowa Grande Promenade on June 10th, the Voyageurs got hungry and decided to eat their Box Car cake. Grand Correspondant David Schick was impressed at last years National Promenade in Green Bay where the Grande de Wisconsin has their Merci Box Car housed in the National Railroad Museum. A collection was taken per slice of cake and the proceeds were sent to the Wisconsin Museum to help with the maintenance of the Box Car.

## POW - MIA

POW/MIA ANNUAL AWARDS

The 2022-2023 POW/MIA Reporting period is now over. Consolidated Reports are being sent in to their respective Directeur. I have sent merchandise to 31 Voitures and have only received 17 Consolidated Reports so far. There's still time to send in reports for inclusion to the Consolidated Report numbers taken to Nationale. Since every Promenade includes THE POW/MIA EMPTY CHAIR Recognition, it seems as though there might be a few reports that could be sent in for credit.

In April I was able to attend The Great Western Promenade in Rapid City, SD. What a fabulous location for everyone to be able to partake of so much history in one location. Everyone there had a wonderful experience sit seeing the wonders so close by.

For my next trip I decided to drive back to Lorton, VA for Memorial Day at Arlington National Cemetery. Arlington is a grand place to honor those who gave their ALL for our country. The formal Memorial Day Service in the Amphitheatre was followed by watching the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. After the formal ceremony, all of the Service Organizations there were able to place a wreath at the Tomb.

The following weekend I managed to travel to The Great Lakes Promenade in Okemos, MI. This allowed more greetings and fellowship with those fellow Voyageurs we haven't seen for a while.

In July I attended the Grand Prom du Washington. It was good to get together with Voyageurs from around the state. I had the Honor of Installing four new GOOFS into our Grande. At our Banquet Saturday, I was able to perform the Installation of our new Grande Chef, as well as the new Officers.

The 2024 POW/MIA Scholarship Fund Pin is now available. You may contact me for consignments in any amount. The only requirement is that any 2023 Consignments must be paid for prior to ordering 2024s. The cost will be \$4.00, the same as last year.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Sandusky, Ohio in September.

### DO NOT FORGET OUR FOUR GOALS

- Merchandise Sales
- Raising our POW/MIA Survivor Scholarship Fund Awareness
- Consolidated Reports
- POW/MIA Pin Design

For La Societe

Steven W. Slegers,  
National Directeur POW/MIA

# SOUTHLAND DIXIE ALEXANDRIA LOUISIANA



Past Chefs Pat Beamer - 2014, Mark Moots - 2017, Rick Williams - 2019, Bill Simpson - 2022 with current Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank Kronen.



Ray Boy all dressed up for his luncheon with the Past Presidents.



Volunteers hard at work serving the evening meal.



Rick Williams, Cindy & Bob Hickey, Dell & Bill Simpson and Gary Cox after their dinner at Tunks Restaurant with a stuffed alligator in the background.

# GREAT LAKES PROMENADE OKEMOS - MICHIGAN



John Hawkins and Tim Turner enjoying the Great Lakes camaraderie.



Big Chef Frank and National POW-MIA Directeur Steve Slegers.



Tom & Mike manning the Registration table.



Oh Darn, the Cardinals got beat again!



New Great Lakes President - Lonnie Haynes



Great Lakes Grande Voiture Flags



Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank and National Cabane Presidente Robbie lay a wreath at the Leslie Veterans Memorial



Great Lakes President Charlie Ellis about to bring the business meeting to order.



Joann and Laura enjoying the Saturday evening banquet and festivities.



Nice crowd for the Memorial Service.



Ed and Mitch discussing world events; Yeah Right!



Charlie, just how did your new truck run out of oil?



Special "K" happy to not be lugging around the Paul Bunyan Gavel.



The ladies adding some class to the banquet.



Grand Chefs at one of the special tables.



# CENTRAL STATES PROMENADE



At the Saturday evening banquet



All the Gold Chapeaus

## GRANDE DU INDIANA



On April 29th, Chef de Gare Jay Collars of Voiture Locale # 145 and other members of the Locale attended the dedication ceremony of the Vietnam War Memorial at Veterans Park in Aurora, Indiana. Collars is pictured along with guest speaker and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Sammy Davis.

## GRANDE DU FRANCE

### KEEP THOSE WHEELCHAIRS ROLLING



On July 5th, VAVS Representative Doc Scheffler of Voiture # 1496 presents a check for \$500 for laundry baskets for the Community Living Residents at the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center in Alabama.

L to R: April Jones, Chief of Stakeholder Relations, Chamel Taylor, Chief of Voluntary Services, Chuck Gills, Acting Medical Center Director, Doc Scheffler, Tracy White, Associate Director and James Hardmon, Acting Associate Director for Patient Care Services.



## GRANDE DU MICHIGAN



Saginaw # 600 loci was sold to the local Minor League Baseball team who refurbished the train.



Jim Visser and Frank Campo greeted by Central States President Robert Graves

## GRANDE DE WISCONSIN



On May 14th, the Grande de Wisconsin donated a new Kubota tractor to Camp American Legion in northern Wisconsin. The facility is open to Wisconsin Veterans, active duty personal or families of the Fallen to Help Heal the Mind, Body and Spirit.

Ken Laatsch is seen presenting the keys to the Kubota to Camp Director Jim Klement as Department American Legion Commander along with a host of Voyageurs and Legionnaires.

## GRANDE DU FLORIDA



On June 7th, Terry Lee, Sous Nationale & Grand du FL Directeur Child Welfare, Anita Lee, Grande de FL Chairperson Child Welfare, Binion Williams, Chef de Gare Grand du FL and his wife Debbie, visited the Russell Home for Atypical Children in Orlando FL and presented a Certificate of Partnership and delivered donations. We toured the home and handed out stick American flags to residents and Staff

On Grand Chef Binion along with Anita and Terry Lee visited the Baptist Children's Home in Jacksonville and presented Coordinator Lynn Cooper with a certificate of Partnership.

All were presented with 2024 Child Welfare pins and Binions Grand Chefs pin.

Voiture # 304 has been providing donations of beverages and snacks to the Childrens Home since 2020.





## GRANDE DU MARYLAND



On 20 May 2023 our Voiture No. 155 locomotive, Chooey and crew, supported the Laytonsville MD Community Day Parade in Laytonsville. The locomotive was crewed by members of Voiture No. 155 and provided seating for senior dignitaries of American Legion Post 68 from Olney, Maryland.

Chooey is quite popular in our area and is in demand for various holiday parades as well as patriotic and veteran oriented events. The vehicle is based on the frame of a 1950 GMC milk truck and has the original flat head six engine. She features four whistles (soprano through bass) as well as a train bell. One of our members has also fashioned and milled a cannon simulator that mounts on the back of the vehicle, and when fired, gets your attention.

## GRANDE DU WEST VIRGINIA



Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank Kronen installs new Grande du West Virginia Grand Chef de Gare Donald Lambert at their Grande Promenade

### VOITURE NATIONALE NURSES TRAINING RAFFLE



Correspondant National Terry Sims pulls out the winning tickets.

1st	Nelson Carter	V - 1219 FL	\$2,500
2nd	Larry Atkins	V - 1496 FR	1,000
3rd	Clare Blakeslee	V - 846 PA	100
4th	Daniel Knoll	V - 276 IN	100
5th	Richard Jordan	V - 1530 VA	100
6th	Warren Bratvold	V - 360 ND	100
7th	Rusty Pagan	V - 1298 OK	100
8th	Gerald Bernard	V - 559 NH	100
9th	Howard Moore	V - 510 IN	100
10th	Herbert Handley	V - 1172 NC	100
11th	John Patten	V - 55 PA	100
12th	John Neff	V - 96 WA	100

## MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND



Chef Frank along with Sous Chefs Debra, Steve and Janie present the 40 et 8 wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Group picture at the Sunday evening banquet.



Big Chef Frank and Presidente Robbie paying respects at the John J. (Blackjack) Pershing grave site.



Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank Kronen leading the Calvin Kain Memorial Service following the Sunday evening banquet.



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fers Steve Dircks, Janie Miller and Debra Reynolds participate in the Calvin Kain Memorial Service.



Presidente Robbie Garland and Sous Presidente Cheryl Boswell present the Cabane Wreath to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Honor Guard.



Combined National Forty et Eight Voyageurs and La Femme Officers.





## NATIONAL CABANE PRESIDENTE ROBBIE GARLAND

Greeting Voyageurs and Dames,

I would like thank all the Dames for their work on Membership this year. We reached my goal of 100% or more. Our final count was 105.51%. I looked back at our Membership numbers and think it is safe to say this is the first time since 2000 we reached 100% or more, two consecutive years. I also found this is the third time since 2000 we have had 100% plus membership.

We recruited 198 new Dames. If you are one of the members who recruited one of these new Dames, hopefully you have started the Educate and Mentor part of my moto. For our organization to continue we need to keep these new Dames. Reach out to them make sure they feel welcome and are involved and understand our programs.

The weekend of May 18<sup>th</sup> through May 20<sup>th</sup> I had the privilege to be invited and attend the Goose Creek Gator Wreck in Charleston, SC. Cabane 1067 sure knows Southern Hospitality. I was greeted upon arrival at the hotel by PNP Kathy Ahner, bearing a basket with goodies. She took me to an amazing Mexican Food Restaurant for dinner that evening, then to the post to visit with friends. Friday was the Hospitality Suite, with lots of good food and more visiting with new and old friends. Friday evening was at the Post for the Kangaroo Kourt, Carol Austin and Joyce Willis were my hostesses, the food at the Post was very good, and we tried some of the Carolina Tangy wing sauce which was very tasty. As always the Kangaroo Kourt was a lot of fun, with the PG's collecting money, being tried and getting pies in the face.

Saturday evening was the banquet with great food and company. Cabane 1067 gave me a beautiful pineapple candle holder with lights, a pineapple cheese/cutting board with a Gator handle cheese knife, a very pretty South Carolina ornament and a \$200 check for Child Welfare. For anyone who doesn't know the Pineapple is the symbol of hospitality in the South.

Memorial Day Weekend I had the privilege to attend the Memorial Day Event at Arlington Cemetery. This was an absolutely amazing experience, the Memorial Day Committee had everything organized and did a good job keeping us on track. The hospitality for the weekend was great. I received a gift basket with wine and wine glasses included. On Sunday we went to General Pershing's grave and Joseph W. Breen's grave to place flowers on the graves. The banquet on Sunday was wonderful. The food was outstanding and everyone had a great time. Monday it was off to Arlington Cemetery, what an awesome day that was. Getting there was an event all on its own. Traffic was terrible, but we arrived timely and then had to get lined up to go through security. Once inside we boarded trams to get to the Amphitheater. Everyone was handing out flags while we were in line to get in and once we arrived at the Amphitheater security area. While we were handing out flags the Drapeau's were escorted to the area where they lined up to march into the theater. Watching all the flags march in is a very touching site and to see our flags being brought in, is in itself enough to make the trip worthwhile. We found seats and standing places for the President's speech. Once he spoke and was escorted out, we then moved to the area by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to find our wreath. Thanks to Gary Cox who found the individual who was responsible for lining everyone up, to get the La Femmes moved to just behind The Voiture with their wreath. Cheryl Boswell and I took our wreath and presented it to the Guard at the Tomb. What a moving experience! This is a once in a lifetime opportunity that very few people ever get to experience.

Following the Memorial Day weekend it was on to Okemos, Michigan to The Great Lakes Promenade. We were picked up at the airport by Lori Coe who got us to the hotel. Carrie Haynes met us at the hotel to be sure we were checked in promptly and in our room without any issues. Carrie arrived the next morning with a bag of snacks, water and other goodies. Carrie had a tee shirt for me with "Dames Just Want to Have Fun" printed on the back and the Great Lakes Promenade Committee had a polo shirt with my name and one for my bag man Ron. Thursday evening the hospitality room opened up with snacks, food and beverages. Friday we went to Leslie, Michigan to place wreaths on a Veterans Memorial. Friday evening there was quite a spread of food, snacks and adult beverages. Saturday was a day for visiting in the Hospitality Room and the banquet that evening. Before the banquet there was drawings for the many items displayed on several tables. I won a beautiful bling purse which I ended up giving to Cheryl Jamnick. Once again the food was delicious. After the meal there was drawings for gifts from each of the states involved in the Great Lakes Promenade. Sunday Lori Coe picked up us to get us back to the airport and on our plane back home. What a great weekend!

The next weekend I attended the Florida Grande Rendezvous in Orlando, FL. I was able to meet up with all my Florida friends. Friday we had committee meetings and socialization in the Hospitality Room. Saturday was the Rendezvous and the Past Grande Presidents luncheon at The Olive Garden. Saturday afternoon there was a joint memorial service with the Grand Voiture. After the memorial services I installed the new Grande Officers. Saturday evening was the banquet with good food and fellowship. Sunday I attended their Cheminot.

July has been a catch up month for me. I had only one visitation request during the month. We headed to Oregon for their Grande to install the new officers. What an amazing trip this was. We were greeted at the airport by PNP Joyce Robberstad, she took us to lunch and then to our hotel. We were given time to settle in and rest for a couple of hours. PNP Joyce and Mike Robberstad took us to a Great Mexican Restaurant where we met up with Frank & Linda Wells, and the Oregon Grand Chef, Brent Collee. Cabane 153 gave me a beautiful patriotic bag filled with snacks drinks and other treasures.

The following morning PNP Joyce and Mike picked us up and we headed to the Oregon Coast, for a day of fun. We stopped and walked on the beach then proceeded down the coast for a delicious lunch at a fresh seafood restaurant. We then went to the Oregon Coast Aquarium, with lots of sea life to see. I actually was able to touch a jelly fish. We made our way up the coast with the hope of some whale watching, but arriving at the bay where the whales are visible it was covered with fog so we did not get to look for whales.

The next morning we moved from Salem to Lebanon, OR where the Grande was being held. We got settled into our hotel and then went to the post for the afternoon and evening. We had a wonderful lunch at the post and spent the afternoon visiting with old friends and making new friends. We also had great dinner at the post. After dinner the Grande Oregon Cheminot was opened and the Dames went through their agenda. The next day was their Rendezvous where Dames gave their reports and went through their business, what a fun group of Dames. One of these Dames made the statement "We are small but mighty", which was demonstrated by the amount of work they did on our programs. We paused for lunch provided by Cabane 153, which was

a sandwich bar complete with pasta salad, potato salad and dessert. Rendezvous resumed after lunch, they finished new business and held elections. After all was completed, the Cabanes in attendance and the Grande Cabane gave me lots of wonderful gifts. Cabane 153 and Grande de Oregon both presented checks to the Child Welfare Program for my project for an additional \$255.



The banquet Saturday night was Gangster theme, most everyone was dressed for the theme. The guys dressed in gangster suits and the women were in flapper dresses. The food was very good and PNP Joyce surprised me with a beautiful bouquet of Flowers and cupcakes for my birthday. After the banquet I had an Oregon Voyageur donate a large sum to my Child Welfare Project which was enough to meet my goal for this year.

Sunday morning there was a joint installation for the Voiture and Cabane. After the installation the Dames held their Opening Cheminot for the New Year. I must say the Oregon Hospitality for the weekend was over the top.

For the Good of La Societe de Femme,  
Robbie Garland



### LA FEMME MEMBERSHIP

GRANDE	2022	2023	GOAL
Alabama	16	16	100.00%
Alaska	10	10	100.00%
Arkansas	6	6	100.00%
Cabane Nationale	11	12	109.09%
Florida	98	111	113.27%
Georgia	85	89	104.71%
Illinois	79	82	103.80%
Indiana	366	370	101.09%
Louisiana	28	26	92.86%
Maine	29	29	100.00%
Massachusetts	15	15	100.00%
Michigan	161	170	105.59%
Minnesota	97	97	100.00%
Mississippi	13	13	100.00%
Missouri	23	24	104.35%
Nebraska	26	26	100.00%
New York	65	70	107.69%
North Carolina	56	60	107.14%
Ohio	23	23	100.00%
Oklahoma	32	36	112.50%
Oregon	59	59	100.00%
Pennsylvania	28	31	110.71%
South Carolina	81	81	100.00%
South Dakota	8	13	162.50%
Texas	38	38	100.00%
Virginia	10	10	100.00%
Washington	116	151	130.17%
Wisconsin	90	93	103.33%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1669</b>	<b>1761</b>	<b>105.51%</b>

### IN MEMORY THOMAS "TOM" STOCKMAL



Chef de Chemin de Fer - 2006



**104<sup>th</sup> Promenade Nationale  
Sandusky, OH  
September 12-16, 2023**

**First Aid:**

**NATIONAL OFFICE & EMBLEM SALES: INDIGO BAY**

**Tuesday, September 12, 2023**

9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.  
5:00 P.M.

**Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.  
8:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M.  
8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.  
8:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M.  
9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.  
11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.  
1:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.  
3:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.  
5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.  
6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.  
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

**Thursday, September 14, 2023**

8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.  
8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
4:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

**PROMENADE NATIONALE COMMITTEE MEETINGS - ALL MEETINGS IN EXECUTIVE CENTER**

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

1. Child Welfare: PORTIA
2. Box Car Assoc: TAMARIND
3. Membership: GUAVA

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

1. VAVS Meeting: PORTIA
2. Carville Star: GUAVA
3. Time & Place: TAMARIND

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

1. Public Relations: PORTIA
2. Historien Meeting: GUAVA

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

1. Special Awards: TAMARIND
2. Youth Sports: PORTIA
3. Nurses Training: GUAVA

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

1. Americanism: PORTIA
2. Ritual Meeting: GUAVA
3. POW/MIA Meeting: TAMARIND

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1. Finance Meeting: PORTIA
2. Rules / Credentials: GUAVA
3. Voiture Activities: TAMARIND

4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

OPENING SESSION/MEMORIAL – SALON A & H  
Call to order: Chef de Chemin de Fer: Frank Kronen  
Opening Ceremony – Advance of Colors  
Memorial Service William Streuber, Aumonier

National

Greetings by David Cook, Conducteur National  
Introduction of Distinguished Guests by David Cook  
\*Response from Guest  
\*Response by Chef de Chemin de Fer, Frank Kronen  
Recess

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Friday September 15, 2023**

Registration: WEST FOYER  
General Session I: SALON A & H  
Call to Order; Chef de Chemin de Fer: Frank Kronen

8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Reading of the Promenade National Call  
By Correspondant National, Terry Sims

Introduction of National Officers and

Chefs de Chemin de Fer Passé

REPORTS OF NATIONAL OFFICERS  
Chef de Chemin de Fer: Frank Kronen  
Commissaire Intendant National: Dan Dumas  
Historien National: Ron Pfalzgraf  
Correspondant National: Terry Sims

REPORTS OF TRUST CHAIRMEN  
C. W. Ardey Child Welfare Trust: Rick Williams  
George B. Boland Nurses Training Trust: Don Emley  
Trophies: Wally Hammond  
Wm. Joe Jannick - Chef de Chemin de Fer 2004 Award  
Silas Noel - Chef de Chemin de Fer 2001 Award

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES  
Resolution Meeting: National Avocat, William Stroud  
Rules & Order: Debbie Reynolds, Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer  
Finance: Dan Dumas  
Child Welfare: Directeur, Joe Donovan  
Trophies: John T. Digilio, Jr. Award  
Carl Nielson Award  
Charles W Ardey Jr, Award

VAVS: Directeur, Ron Rolfes  
POW/MIA: Directeur, Steven Slegers  
Carville Star: Directeur, Tom Adams  
Awards  
Credentials: Terry Chatfield, Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer  
Constitution: Avocat National, William Stroud  
Generals Club/ Past Chef Lunch: Cypress

11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

GENERAL SESSION II: SALON A & H

RECONVENE SESSION:

Call to Order – Frank Kronen, Chef de Chemin de Fer  
Directeur of Special Awards, Wayne Sorrentino  
City of the Year  
Voyageur of the Year  
Presentation of the Hero of the Year and  
Law Officer of the Year Awards

Trophies: Irvin M "Hal" Halpern Award  
William P Lyons Award

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Youth Sports: Directeur: Randall Shrader  
Trophies: Donald K "Bucky" Harris Award  
E.A. "Andy" Buchta Award  
Michael Wood Award  
A.C. "Scottie" Scott Award

Nurses Training: Directeur, Robert Hickey  
Trophies: Voiture S10 Award  
J. Earl Simpson Award  
Michael R. Verville Award

Voiture Activities: Directeur: John Helgeson  
Trophies: Doyle Webb Award  
C. James Littorin Award  
David B. Oliver Award

Americanism: Directeur, Frank Campo  
Trophies: Paul J. Sorrentino Award  
J. Frank Baker Award  
Paul L. Landry Award

Public Relations: Directeur, Renny Keagle  
Trophies: John E. Kilgus Award  
Thomas William Fay Jr. Award  
Art McDowell Award  
John W. Emerson Award  
Robert Kaseman Award  
LaVerne Eccleston Award  
Don Collins Award

Ritual: Directeur, Steven Bradley  
Trophies: Sam Friedman Award  
Joel Bunch Award

Time & Place: Chairman, Jim Maxwell  
Box Car Association: Directeur: Paul Emmert  
Membership: Directeur: Gena Keller  
de Presentation of Sous Chef de Chemin  
de Fer Plaques  
Membership Awards

New Business  
Announcements  
Benediction: Aumonier William Streuber  
Promenade Nationale Attitude Adjustment Hour:  
SALON B, C, F & G  
Promenade Nationale Banquet: SALON B, C, F & G

9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Saturday, September 16, 2023**

Closing Session: SALON A & H  
Call to Order by, Chef de Chemin de Fer, Frank Kronen

REPORT OF COMMITTEES  
Historien: Ron Pfalzgraf  
Trophies: Ralph Stovall Award  
Box Car Round-Up Prizes  
Supplementary (if any)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS  
Chef de Chemin de Fer  
Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer (4)  
Commissaire Intendant National  
Gardes de La Porte Nationaux (2)  
Historien National  
Drapeau National

Recess  
Installation of Officers:

Benediction  
Closing Ceremony – Retirement of Colors  
Adjournment

Meeting of the Cheminot Nationaux 2024  
Immediately following the close of the 2023 Promenade Nationale

**La Societe de Femme  
2023 Schedule  
Sandusky, Ohio**

**Tuesday September 12th**

9:00 AM-3:00 PM Pre-Registration only  
9:00 AM-3:00 PM La Femmes Emblem Sales

**Early Bird Party Cypress room  
Wednesday September 13th**

9:00 AM-3:00 PM La Femmes Emblem Sales  
9:00 AM-3:00 PM All Registration  
8:00 AM Box Car Hobo Meeting IRONWOOD  
9:00 AM Resolution SALON D-E  
9:30 AM Ritual  
10:00 AM Rules & Orders  
10:30 AM Aid to Voiture  
11:00 AM Credentials  
11:30 AM Constitution  
1:00 PM Cheminot Nationale  
2:00 PM Finance  
2:30 PM Joint Committees  
3:00 PM Trophy and Awards

The above program meetings may vary on starting times.

**GERMANY PARTY IS WEDNESDAY EVENING 6:00 PM**

**Thursday September 14th**

9:00 AM All Registration  
9:00 AM – 11:00 PM La Femmes Emblem Sales  
11:30 AM La Presidente Luncheon CYPRESS  
1:30 PM La Femmes Memorial Service SALON D-E  
2:30 PM Opening Session

**VOITURE MEMORIAL SERVICE IS THURSDAY AT 4:30 PM DAMES ARE WELCOME**

**Friday September 15th**

9:00 AM Session SALON D-E  
1:30 PM Session ELECTIONS

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023**

9:00 AM Installation of 2024 Officers SALON D-E  
2024 Cheminot Nationale

**AMERICANISM**

Helo Voyageurs and Dames, I have received about a dozen annual Americanism program reports to date. For those Grand Directeur's that have not sent in their report, I will take them up to the time of our meeting at Promenade Nationale. The form can be found on the website in the petite communique. Just about anything we do can be recorded on the report. There are several categories on the report: Americanism Awards-Scouts, ROTC, high school awards, community organizations, private citizens, fire/law enforcement/ems; others, etc.



Americanism Speeches and Flag Activities- flag presentations, flag raising, flag retirement;

Youth Activities-band support, baseball, boys/girls state, oratorical, scouts, FFA, 4H, PTA, etc.

Community Activities- blood donor, voting/elections, senior citizens, poppy sales, special Olympics, meetings, promenades, wrecks, activities in other fraternal or social organizations, etc.

Holidays and Memorials- Calvin Kain, grave decorations, Memorial Day, funerals/memorial services, parades, patriotic events, Veterans day, etc.

Veterans-vet home activities, VAVS, vet employment, etc.

Flags For First Graders

By the time this edition of the 40 & 8er hits your email, school will be starting. If your Locale does not participate in Flags for First Graders, this is a good time to look into contacting a school to see if you can participate. Remember, the flag you give out to a student may be the only flag that is in the house they live in. I've found that you can purchase a gross (144) of flags from the American Legion emblem sales for under \$20.00 or there about.

Pins have finally been received and can be secured by contacting Ron Garland: rgarland46@bellsouth.net. Have a great summer, Frank Campo Directeur





## SOUS CHEF DE CHEMIN DE FER DEBRA REYNOLDS

As we come to the end of the membership year, National L'Editeur Tom has given us an opportunity to tell y'all our year as a Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer in a story. This is easier said than done as there is not enough space in the *Forty and Eigher* that will convey my sincere gratitude to all of you for having faith in me. With that said, I began my tenure as Sous Chef in Green Bay, Wisconsin, but y'all know that. Once I returned home, my first visit was to Savannah, Georgia where I attended the Shamrock Wreck. This event has been an annual event for my husband (Bud) and me for over ten years. As usual, there was great camaraderie and fun had by all who attended.

Grand du Florida had its annual Seminar and Chef's Picnic the following weekend in Jacksonville, home (and hosts) of Voiture Locale 304. We were given the history of the 40 and 8 along with additional need-to-know information. I gave a brief introduction to surfing the Nationale website and how the attendees can find forms within the site.

Then came the holidays. Everyone knows the hustle and bustle of the holidays. But, as Grand Correspondant du Florida, I prepared for Grand du Florida's Mid-Winter Petite Promenade which was held in Orlando. In attendance was the Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank Kronen. Unfortunately, there wasn't much of a turnout, but it was successful regardless of the low attendance. I am sure many of you experience the same issue.

The annual Joint Carolinas was next in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Again, Big Chef and I had a great time with good people and good food. The hotel was right across the street from the Post Home.

Skipping right along the calendar comes the Homecoming of Madam La Presidente, Robbie Garland, again, in Jacksonville. The theme was Mardi Gras, and everyone was dressed for the occasion. The last time I saw that much gold, purple and green was when I lived in New Orleans in the 70's. This was followed closely by the Cajun Wreck in New Iberia, Louisiana. Nothing fancy but the hospitality is exceptional and food marvelous. Those individuals really know how to feed people! Ya gotta attend at least one Cajun Wreck to experience Cajun food at its finest!

Even for Florida the weather was exceptionally cool, but I certainly didn't expect even cooler weather when I visited Springfield, Missouri. Brrrrrr! But the hospitality shown by the 'Show Me' Grand was overwhelming to say the least. Never thought of taking PG's to different Posts for their trials, neat idea. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the lawn ladder game played indoors! I still have my participation trophy on my mantle. Thanks go to Grand Chef Hallie, Grand Correspondant Terry, Sous Directeur – Membership Frank and my good friend Ed Jones (whom I met at my first Nationale Prom), all y'all made my visit rememberable.

I drove home from Springfield, Missouri and had a few (and I do mean few) days to catch up with emails, phone calls and area newsletters, before heading up to the Homecoming of the Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank Kronen in Independence, Ohio. We had fun mingling with new people by using the little idea cards being passed around by the Directeur of Membership, Gena Keller. Very enlightening.

I drove home from there, freshened up my suitcase and picked up the hubby and we drove to Cleveland, Tennessee for the Hillbilly Wreck. This is an annual visit as well because Bud is an honorary member of their Ritual Team. We never have a bad time any time we visit Cleveland.

Oooooo, I have a whole week before needing to be anywhere, so I can get caught up on my Locale's events, making phone calls, answering emails, and sending encouraging letters to my area in addition to getting ready for Grand du Florida's Grand Promenade in June. Then I am off to the Great Western States in Rapid City, South Dakota.

The drive to Rapid City is lengthy as were all my travels but well worth it. The Rushmore Hotel was exceptional. (I'm running out of adjectives!) I was in the lap of luxury there. We all (those who have never been) went on the tour to Mt. Rushmore (duh) then on to Chief Crazy Horse's Monument and Museum. (The last time I was in South Dakota I went to Sturgis on the back of a Harley. Needless to say, we didn't stop for touristy stuff!) The banquet was interesting, and I thoroughly enjoyed my visit there.

Since I was driving and didn't have enough time to drive home and refresh my suitcase before I needed to be in Louisiana, I had packed more than enough clothes needed to go straight to Southland's Dixie Promenade in Alexandria, Louisiana. Oh, boy! Dem Louisiana boys sho do pass a good time! The hotel was a circa 1900 classic Renaissance-style, huge place. Ray Boy and his friends made sure we were all taken care of in the style of the French Cajuns. Great food, no doubt! Doc La Fleur, Ray Boy, and his cooking Cajuns, whew! That's all I can say! It was a great weekend.

Wow! Three weeks before going anywhere. I love being with all of my friends, old and new ones, but nothing like being home with Bud and pets. Bud accompanies me to the next event – the Annual Gator Wreck in Goose Creek, South Carolina, as we are both on the Ritual Team there. We bring our camper and visit with our kids who still live in South Carolina, while we are there. This year we were worried we would have to cut the Friday night trials short as there were rumors of 22 PGs. But, alas, there were only 6. So, we carried on, smartly.

Back home, once again, to get ready for the most important and long waited for trip. Memorial Day in Arlington has been on my bucket list since joining the Forty and Eight. I never wanted to go alone but that didn't stop me this time. The whole experience was beyond my imagination. I met some amazing individuals and found a couple from the same high school I went to. Small world we live in. Comrades Dick George and John Schenk made all of the action look easy, whereas I am sure it was not. Cudos, Dick and John.

Driving from DC is a nightmare most of the time, but I have my former Navy Chief (The Chief was actually our chief in Great Lakes Naval Training Center), who went on to be an over-the-road trucker, give Bud directions on how to avoid this and that. Yeah, right, blew right by the area I was going to stay for the night and drove straight through to the next adventure. I had two extra days to catch up with emails, phone calls, area letters, enjoy the area, and find a Wal-Mart.

The next adventure was The Great Lakes Promenade that was being held this year in Okemos, Michigan. Now, the Great Lakes Naval Training Center (better known as GLAKES to us Navy vets) is not to be confused with the Great Lakes Promenade. The Great Lakes Promenade is a multi-state entity as Southland's Dixie and The Great Western Promenades are. There were tours organized for both the Voyageurs and the Dames and by the time the weekend was over I was ready to move to Michigan (if it wasn't for the cold weather they get up there).

My last event was Grand du Florida's Grand Promenade toward the middle of June. I am utilizing the next couple of months for long overdue medical appointments and family events prior to the Nationale Promenade. Believe it or not, Bud will be coming with me this time so everyone who has been asking where he is, I will point him out.

We have lost so many (too many) of our brothers and sisters along the way, but this only strengthens our resolve to carry on the mission as they have done.

I think there were only one or two places that Big Chef Frank was not at the same place I was. This was not by design, I just wanted to go to as many places as I could this year. So, this has been my year of visiting people and places. I hope to be able to do it all again. I learned so much, met so many (now) friends and have seen what can be achieved when we all work together. As Mr. Spock would say, Live Long and Prosper! Deb Reynolds

### MEMBERSHIP MOTIVATION

In order to achieve the dream of 100 percent membership growth, we must acknowledge that it is indeed possible. It may seem like an uphill battle, but through relentless determination and unwavering commitment, we can turn this dream into a reality. Along this journey, we will undoubtedly encounter failure, pain, setbacks, and even defeat. However, it is through these challenges that we will discover the true extent of our greatness. We possess an untapped power within us, far greater than we can possibly imagine. Our circumstances do not define us; we have the ability to rise above them.

To make our dream a reality, it is imperative to formulate a well-thought-out plan of action. Merely wishing for success will not suffice. We need to actively seek out winners who share our vision and are willing to work together towards our common goal. The responsibility lies in our hands; we are the driving force behind this endeavor. Remember, it's not over until we secure the victory.

As leaders, we are acutely aware of our hunger for triumph. Let us now prepare for the year 2024 with a strategic plan of action. Begin by listing four areas within our membership that require improvement. Address these issues head-on and develop clear goals on how we can achieve the necessary changes. Simultaneously, reach out to our bottom four Grandes and establish a plan to engage with them. Whether it be through phone calls or personal visits, we must ensure that these individuals are included in our vision.

The key to success in this sales-driven environment lies in membership growth, working together, and effective communication. Let us embrace the no-nonsense approach and focus on these keywords to propel us towards achieving our dream. It is within our grasp; we have the power to turn it into a reality. With a solid plan and unwavering dedication, we will triumph in the face of any obstacle. The time for action is now.




### The 104th Promenade Nationale & 60th Rendezvous Nationale Sandusky, Ohio September 13th thru September 16th

The Grande du Ohio along with the Grande du Indiana will be your Promenade & Rendezvous hosts.

#### Kalahari Resort Highlights

- 890 Guest Rooms
- 215,000sq ft Convention Center space including 3 ballrooms for a total of 39 meeting rooms.
- All Guest Rooms and Convention Center under one roof.
- Six Restaurants and five lounges within the resort. Marrakesh Market Lounge is the Voyageur and Dame Lounge. Must wear your credentials badge.
- All Guest Rooms include four admissions to the indoor waterpark with a \$60.00 per day fee waived as is the \$30.00 per day resort fee.
- Shuttle service available to local area attractions.
- A 20% discount at their full service Kalahari Spa and Salon equipped with a float tank.
- Complimentary self parking with a \$16.00 per day Valet. Handicap Valet parking is complimentary.
- Area shopping outlets
- A 1 1/2 mile walking trail around the resort
- Safari outdoor zoo.
- Zip lines for the daring.
- Many tourist attractions: Cedar Point, Lake Erie Islands, Fishing, Clay Shooting, Golf, Wineries, centrally located between Toledo and Cleveland with casinos, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.




### Nutcracker Wreck 2023 20-21 October, Pascagoula, MS

Wreck and all associated events held at Legion Post 160 in Pascagoula. Lodging less than 2 miles away in the beautiful Pascagoula Hilton Garden Inn. Restaurants and shopping nearby and Biloxi casinos within 20 miles.

Hotel reservation deadline for \$98.00 room rate is 20 September 2023  
After 20 September room rate increases to at least \$129!

**REGISTRATION FEE \$75** - Includes Friday night hors d'oeuvres, Saturday lunch and Saturday Banquet- No registration charge for P.G.'s - bring 'em on!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Voiture/Cabane \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Voiture/Cabane \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check if allergic to squirrels \_\_\_\_\_ or seafood \_\_\_\_\_

Registration (\$75 each) X \_\_\_\_\_ (Attendees) Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Check Payable to Voiture 1411 and mail to: Curtis Smith, Nutcracker Wreck, 516 Palm Breeze Drive, Ocean Springs, MS 39564)**

**HOTEL** - (all rooms non-smoking) \$98.00 + tax single/double.  
Reservations: Hilton Reservations 888-728-3027 using rate code SAV  
Mention "40&8 Honor Society of American Veterans"  
\*\*\*\*\***Reservation must be made by 20 September**\*\*\*\*\*

Tentative Schedule - Subject to Change - Registration and all events at Post 160

Friday, 20 October - a	Saturday, 21 October 2023
Registration/Bar 12:00-3:00 pm	P.G.'s Report 7:00 am
Squirrely Hour 6:00 pm	Grande Cheminet 8:00 am
Beauty (?) Contest 7:00 pm	1st and 2nd Degree 9:00 am
	Lunch noon
	3rd Degree 1:00 pm
	Squirrely Hour 5:00 pm
	Banquet 8:00 pm

## GRANDE DU MINNESOTA



McLeod County V414 du Minnesota held a Formal Wreck June 24 in Hutchinson.; Pictured from left to right are V414 Chef Pete Stoltenow, new V414 Voyageurs Dan Clark and Randall Hogan; Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Steve Dircks, Correspondant V415 Rich Philabaum and new V415 Voyageur Frank Griffeth.

## GRANDE DU MISSOURI



The State Veterans Home in Mexico, Missouri was recently awarded \$370.00 as part of the 2023 "Keep the Wheelchairs Rolling Contest" to purchase a big screen TV for their residents. Voiture 292, Grande du Missouri matched the donation bringing the total to \$740.00 enabling the facility to purchase two TV's. Presenting the check is newly appointed SVH Representative VM Brian Sapp to Kathy Winkelman, Volunteer Coordinator, Mexico Veterans Home.




### PAST CHEF DE GARES CLUB & GENERALS CLUB LUNCHEON FORM ADMISSION \$40.00

Due to circumstances beyond our control we have decided to combine the Past Chef's Breakfast with the Generals Club Luncheon. The cost of each one by themselves has gone up significantly, so this is a change that has to be made.

The Luncheon will be held on Friday from 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM. And the cost is \$40.00. We are sorry for the inconvenience this may cause. Any questions on this matter, please contact Terri Taylor at Voiture National Headquarters.

Tickets for this event may be purchased by completing the form and mailing it to

Voiture Nationale  
250 E. 38th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Or if you wish to pay by credit card you may email the completed form to [taylor@fortyandeight.org](mailto:taylor@fortyandeight.org)

Tickets for this event are limited and should be purchased in ADVANCE to assure availability. (We have to give a count to the hotel 4 weeks in advance)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Voiture Locale / Cabane: \_\_\_\_\_ Grande: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member Of: Past Chefs: \_\_\_\_\_ Generals Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Both: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Check or Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
If Using Credit Card Please Fill Out The Following Information

Visa: \_\_\_\_\_ Master Card: \_\_\_\_\_  
Discover: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total Number Of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ (At \$40.00 Each)  
Total Amount Being Paid: \_\_\_\_\_