



The Honor Society of American Veterans

Forty et Eighter



The official publication of

Fall 2024

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

AMERICANISM
CARVILLE STAR
CHILD WELFARE
GENERALS CLUB
GERMANY CLUB
NATIONAL BOX CAR
NURSES TRAINING
PAST CHEF'S CLUB
POW - MIA
PUBLIC RELATIONS
RITUAL
SPECIAL AWARDS
VAVS
YOUTH SPORTS



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Chef de Chemin de Fer Paul Emmert Sr. of Maryland & National Cabane Presidente Cindy Hickey of North Carolina to lead La Societe in 2025.



Grand Chef de Gares present at the 105th National Promenade in Sandusky Ohio. Steve Dircks of Minnesota on his 2nd stint as Grand Chef de Gare of the Grande du Minnesota received a special gift. The Paul Bunyan Gavel is coming home to Minnesota for the year.

VOITURE NATIONALE OFFICERS 2024 - 2025

Paul Emmert Sr.	Chef de Chemin de Fer	Maryland
Ron Rolles	Correspondant National	Germany
Lonnie Haynes	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	Michigan
Robert Hickey	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	North Carolina
Ralph Turner	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	Missouri
Nick Weyers	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	Kansas
William Stroud	Avocat	Louisiana
Richard Bowers	Aumonier	Maryland
Dan Dumas	Commissaire Intendant	California
Tom Wellman	Conducteur	Pennsylvania
Robert Graves	Historien	Kansas

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

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Terry Sims	Sous Correspondant National	Indiana

CORRESPONDANT NATIONAL RON ROLFES

Greetings Voyageurs and Dames!

For those of you that made the trip out to Sandusky, I think that you would agree that we had far fewer problems this year than last. I think most if not all enjoyed themselves and would like to personally thank everyone for making the trip. Of course, with the 105th behind us we now turn our attention to the 106th Promenade Nationale, which is going to be held in Historic Gettysburg, Pa. This is going to be one you will not want to miss! Reservations are currently being taken by the hotel and are going fast, so get your reservations in today. Contact information for the hotel can be found on the website at www.fortyandeight.org/promenade-nationale

You will want to keep checking back to the site as I hope to have links throughout the year giving you more information on the Gettysburg area. Speaking of the website, if you haven't already ventured to it recently, it has been updated. The staff is still making some critical updates and working some of the bugs out so please be patient and we hope you enjoy the new look.

For those that got in on the Correspondants Challenge last year, I want you to know that you made that a huge success, so Thank You. So much so that I am putting the challenge out again this year. Look for that letter to come out in the coming weeks. It will be the same rules as last year! So, let's get out bring back some of the old, recruit some new members, and have a good time while we do it. I look forward to seeing many of you during the year.

GRANDE DU KANSAS



This year at the Grande Du Kansas "Twister Wreck" National Sous Directeur (now National Directeur) of Child Welfare Tim Evans presented gifts and awards to those present. They also raised a large amount of funds for the numerous programs of La Société.

**VOITURE NATIONALE
1635 HAWTHORNE DR.
PLAINFIELD, IN. 46168**

CHEF DE CHEMIN DE FER PAUL EMMERT SR.

Greetings to all

I wanted take the opportunity to use my first article as your newly elected Chef de Chemin de Fer to convey the appreciation, honor, and humbleness for which I feel, by sharing my remarks verbatim as I delivered them at the installation ceremony during Promenade Nationale in Sandusky.

"Chefs de Chemin de Fer (Passe), La Société Officers, Voyageurs, Friends, Family, Dames, and Distinguished Guests.

Thank you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. As I stand before you today, I am both humbled and honored as I accept the role and responsibilities of the high office of Chef de Chemin de Fer. I do not view this as something that was possible from just my own efforts. Rather, I see this as something for which there are many family, friends, Voyageurs, and Dames, all of whom have supported me on this journey.

To my family, my incredible wife Christine, my daughter Kaitlyn, and my son PJ, your unwavering support, from the time I first became a Voyageur, to this day, you have always told me you were there for me, and would be by my side all across the country, and for this, I love you all. I definitely could not have done any of this without you; your strength, your patience, and your love.

To Grande du Maryland, thank you. Thank you for supporting me on my journey. Our Last Chef de Chemin de Fer from Maryland was Chester Naumowicz in 1957. It has been almost 70 years, and I hope this is a renewal of Maryland's representation at Nationale. Your collective belief in me I hold close to my heart.

To all my friends and fellow Voyageurs, thank you for your encouragement and support from the time I initially spoke of my desire to one day lead this organization into the future, through to today. Your re-assurance that I could do it has helped move me forward. I just hope that I have been able to reciprocate the support and assistance to you, both when you needed it, and when you didn't know you needed it.

To all the Chefs (Passe), including their newest member, Chef (Passe) Frank Campo, all of whom I have had the opportunity to have conversations, and become friends with, thank you. You have paved the way for all of us to build on a legacy of service and selflessness, protecting and growing our organization. Your guidance and support have always been very much appreciated, and I only hope that I will successfully represent you, the office you have held, and La Société in the manner to which it is so deserving.

Femmes, I want you to know that our collective friendships, and the partnership between our two organizations, is so very valuable. We could not accomplish our mission to the levels of success for which we have enjoyed without you at our side. You are the unsung heroes of our 40&8 family. If I can ever do anything for you, or in support of you, please never hesitate to reach out to me. I will be there. To the newest La Presidente (Passe) Lori, I want to thank you for the conversations, and friendship. I appreciate all of it.

I would also like to congratulate our "Woo Girl", Cindy Hickey, on her election as La Presidente of the Femmes. I know we will do great work together, and I can't wait to get started.

To those that will follow after me, those with aspirations for leading La Société into the future, as I have received from my mentors and the Chefs (Passe), you too will have my support. Our organization's future is up to you and your passion.

Now, it should come as a shock to no one that my program for the year will be the National Box Car Association. As all of you know, the NBCA donates all of their monies each year to support all of the programs within La Société. I believe it to be a worthy cause, but let me reinforce that this should not impede you from supporting whatever program is close to you. All of our programs need your support, and none of our programs can self-sustain. Each of YOU are the keys to our programs' success.

As we move forward, our mission must continue to be supporting these programs and growing our organization through UNITY. This is my theme for the year.

All of us have to remember that although we may hold different offices, at different levels, or no offices yet in your journey with La Société, we all circle back to one commonality, we are Voyageurs Militaire, first and foremost. There is a reason why that title bar is at the top of our marching medals; it is because at the end of every day, that is what we are: Voyageurs Militaire. This mindset has to be part of the UNITY I have spoken of; I truly believe that we are at an inflection point where we should, and will, start seeing an increase in our ranks, hopefully one day to return to our days of membership glory. This can only be accomplished by us working as ONE. We have to be UNITED in our desire to grow La Société, with all of us joining together in order to show all of the diverse "Faces of La Société". We come from all different branches, backgrounds, ideologies, personalities, and passions. We need to be able to UNITE together to spread a common narrative. In order to do the important work we do for our community, state, and nation, we have to have new Voyageurs lined up to inherit our mission.



I will wrap things up with this, today, as we celebrate another year complete, and a new slate of National Officers elected and appointed, we have to remember that even though our Promenade is concluding, our mission continues. I am confident that UNITED, we will succeed.

Let us move forward with fellowship, compassion, dedication, and commitment to our country and La Société's mission.

I want to thank you for your trust and support. I truly do appreciate it, and I will not take it for granted.

God Bless the 40 & 8

God Bless our Troops

God Bless the United States of America

To reiterate, we must stand united as we go about our daily mission. The growth I spoke about in my remarks is not impossible, but it will be challenging. I am confident that we have the right Voyageurs in place to meet and surpass that challenge.

As long as we have God, family, friends, integrity, fellowship, and unity, we can accomplish anything we put our collective minds to, and do so with honor.

In closing, I am feeling great about this year, and the work I know we are poised to do for La Société. As people who have ever been recipients of my letters know, if you ever need me, whether it be for a talk, a visit, or anything in between, do not hesitate to reach out. I am here for you, to serve you. I hope to have the opportunity to visit with many of you over the course of the year, to build lasting memories, and to grow La Société.



CHILD WELFARE

Directeur - Tim Evans

As the incoming Director of the Child Welfare program, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Tim Evans, and I'm from Grand du Kansas, Voiture Local 58 in Wichita. I began my 44-year aviation career in the Marine Corps as an AV-8A Harrier Avionics Technician, serving from 1978 to 1984. My primary station was VMA-231 in Cherry Point, and I spent my final two years at China Lake VX-5, working in weapons development.

It is truly an honor to step in as the director of the Child Welfare team. I would also like to express my gratitude to Joe Donovan for his leadership and support during this transition. As many of you know, Joe led the team for many years, and the solid foundation he built enables us to move forward effectively.

Over the next few months, I encourage you to stay updated by reading the Sous Directors Newsletters. As a team, we aim to take on a more active role in promoting activities for the Grands. Our focus will be on reaching out to organizations familiar with the local community and supporting families with children in need of assistance. I have seen great success in fostering collaboration; as we help others, they are often eager to join us in our efforts.

Thank you for your time and dedication.

HISTORIEN'S ASSOCIATION

President - Ron Pfalzgraf

At the Historien's Meeting there were Questions about what is all required for the History and Scrap Book. Some of the Voyageurs thought you needed all of the programs that are listed to submit a Book.

NOT SO!! They are listed for Grading Points.

The Books are about the Chef de Gare (Locale and Grande) and their Travels for the year. For them to look at and reminisce in later years.

The more Programs that you have, the more points you get.

This year if you had a Scrap Book w/no programs you would have won. I hope this clears that up.

Also, we voted to Grade Pin Collections as they also are a part of History. They can come to Nationale in any form, (Book, on a Vest or any other form). Bring the collection to the Next Historien's Meeting at Nationale to be Graded. There is no Criteria. Any questions, my email is as follows.

jpfalz8@gmail.com

POW / MIA

Directeur - Steve Slegers
steven.tink4748@gmail.com

The 105th Nationale Prom in Sandusky, Ohio was concluded on September 21, 2024. Nationale allowed me to reacquaint myself once again with friends/Voyagers from around the U.S. It is a time for friendship renewal, but it is also a time to learn, first hand, about every Program within the 40 et 8.

The POW/MIA Scholarship Program has continued to flourish because everyone supports the program and its responsibility to those who have sacrificed so much for us. This year I had 18 Applications to review. I received 8 new Applications, 4 second year returnees, 4 third year returnees, and 2 for their 4th and Senior year. Thanks for the tremendous support throughout the year (especially from Cabane Nationale) I was able to Award 18 Scholarships, totaling \$19,800.00. Thank you everyone!!

The POW/MIA Committee Meeting met on Thursday afternoon to discuss where we did the right thing or sometimes the wrong thing. Corrections are hopefully being taken care of. POW/MIA Grande Directeurs need to be a part of our Newsletter updates. A Notion was passed to extend the eligibility for Application for a Scholarship. It is now available up thru GREAT-GREAT GRANDCHILDREN of verifiable POW/MIAs. Keep in mind that Trade and Business Schools are also eligible for these Scholarships.

This past year the POW/MIA Program opened an online capability to submit your Program hours, miles, and expenses. The spreadsheet is designed to list every entry and automatically computes the monetary values for each item. You are able to enter as often as you like and the numbers compile everything for you. There is a drop down function that lists each Grande, so you can see at a glance what everyone is doing within the Program. This dropdown will make the Consolidated Report a matter of easily copying one line of numbers. I had 11 Grandes this past year submit their numbers in this manner. I hope everyone takes a look at this program to see how simple it is. You can access this site by going to the Emblem Sales dropdown to the Programs. Go to the POW/MIA Consolidated Report Form and select the OQR Code at the bottom.

I have two new Sous Directeurs for this coming year. Anthony Castillo of California and Tim Turner of Indiana are two welcome additions to the POW/MIA Committee. My thanks go out to Ryan Killion of South Dakota and Lew Payne of Georgia for their contributions to our Program over the past years. Thank you both!! The Areas of responsibility for my Sous Directeurs is listed below:

Area 'A' Frank Hiriill (CT, DE, DC, GER, ME, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, VA)

40and8987@gmail.com

40and8987@gmail.com

Area 'B' Tim Turner (AL, FL, FR, GA, IN, KY, LAT AM, MEX, MS, NC, TN, WV)

bucks_plumbing@outlook.com

Area 'C' Anthony Castillo (AR, CA, IL, IA, KS, LA, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI)

orkx2@yahoo.com

Area 'D' Ken Queen (AK, AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OK, OR, TX, UT, WA, WY)

Kcqueen1@cox.net

I HAVE CHANGED MY EMAIL PROVIDER. MY NEW INFORMATION IS ANNOTATED IN THE HEADING OF THIS LETTER.

As always the 2025 Merchandise Pins are to one and all at a nominal fee of \$4.00. I also have prior years' pins and Bolo Ties for those who have not yet had the opportunity to acquire them. Contact me for any merchandise needs you may have, whether for one or one hundred, I will get it to you.

DO NOT FORGET OUR GOALS:

Raising our Survivor Scholarship Fund

Awareness

Merchandise Sales

Consolidated Reports

POW/MIA Pin Design

NORTH CAROLINA HURRICANE RELIEF

As we are all aware, September 26 and 27, 2024 forever changed things throughout the Southeast.



Hurricane Helene came through with so much force that the destruction in its wake will not be soon forgotten. Western North Carolina took a serious pounding with rain, wind damage, flooding, and mudslides leading to loss of food, water, services and loss of life.



The Grand Chef du NC, Michelle May was contacted by a friend at Cornelius Paint and Body shop advising they were raising funds and provisions and were joining a convoy with Emmanuel Church to the western Carolinas. They will be setting up a command center to help clean up efforts and to assist the people with provisions. Thanks to generous business and private donors, we raised \$1500.00 in less than 24 hrs and presented the provisions and funds to them. May God bless the people in western Carolina. The Grand du NC was happy to aid in the fund raising efforts.



AMERICANISM

Directeur - John Edelblute IV

Greetings to My Forty and Eight Family

I this article finds you all well and safe. For those who do not know me I am Voyageur John W Edelblute IV and I have been appointed you new Americanism Directeur Nationale for this term. I hail out of the Grande du WI. I have been a member of Le Societe for 19 years and have been active at Locale, Grande and Nationale levels. This years AMERICANISM Team is looking forward to serving and working hard for all of you.



Our Americanism program falls under many different facets. Everything we do as a Voyageur falls under this category which includes all of the programs of the Forty and Eight. For the sake of a better term, the "Americanism Umbrella". Each program Directeur has their own way of running their program. Program Directeur's I am planning on working along side with you this year to help you through the Americanism program. I am looking forward it and will be reaching out to you.

Flags for First Graders is an absolutely wonderful part of Americanism. I know many of you as have I participated in supporting and providing this important educational tool in our local schools. As with many of you over the years I have added more educators, tools and props to help with the presentation. I hope that if your Locale has never held a Flags for First Graders before that you would seriously

consider putting a team together and give it a shot. The program Itinerary is available on the Nationale Website. It is a wonderful script to follow along but your own little part to it to make it your own. Please let myself and the rest of the Americanism Team know about your flag for First Graders programs that you put. We want to hear about them and thank you. For doing what you do.

With Veteran's Day right around the corner and the holidays too please keep these days close in your heart for remembering our fellow Veterans. Participate in your local Veterans Day events whenever possible. The holidays can be rough at times for those who do not have any family or friends to celebrate with. Please call and check on your fellow members of any organization you belong to and check on them. I know you have all heard the term "Buddy Check". Please put this to use and make of it one of your Good Practices.

Please continue to promote the 2025 Americanism pin sale amongst your Locales and through out your Grande. Pin sales are a vital part of our fundraising for the Americanism committee to do their part to help our fellow Vets.

As a gentle push please start looking and talking about putting in a submission for the Nationale Americanisms Award. The guidelines are posted on the Nationale Website. It is always good to start early. Please let me know if you have any questions. The submissions need to be received to myself by June 1st so I can the recipient's paperwork to Nationale by June 30th.

In closing, please keep on being a great American and remember that doing good for someone has no end.

RITUAL

Directeur - Steve Bradley

The National Ritual Committee met September 19, at the 105th Promenade Nationale at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center in Sandusky. 40 Voyageurs were present representing 25 Grandes.

National Directeur Ritual Steve Bradley called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. A prayer was offered by National Sous Ritual Directeur Gary Cox. National Sous Directeur Ritual Bob Bradley took the minutes of the meeting.

Minutes of the last Ritual meeting were suspended with a notion, a second and a vote.

Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank Campo entered. He stressed the importance of our Ritual and the Ritual work of all Voyageurs and the Ritual committee.

Old Business: A notion was made, seconded and approved to correct a typo in the Birthday Celebration.

New Business: Three new passwords were introduced. A notion was made, seconded and approved to keep last year's password.

A notion was made, seconded and approved to add a paragraph to the Ritual and Manual of Ceremonies regarding the Altar Cloth and visitors to a Promenade. In the Third Degree of a Wreck, following the Wrecking Chef's instructions to the P.Gs. this will be added.

"In the opening of a Promenade, the Aumonier places the Altar Cloth on the Altar which is in front of the Chef de Gare. If guests are invited into a Promenade, the Chef de Gare will instruct the Aumonier to remove the Altar Cloth. After the guests have been escorted from the room, the Chef de Gare will instruct the Aumonier to re-place the Altar Cloth on the Altar. In the closing of a Promenade, the Chef de Gare will instruct the Aumonier to remove the Altar Cloth."

A notion was made, seconded and approved to change the last paragraph in the Wrecking Chef's instructions concerning Prayer.

The new paragraph will read "During prayer, while standing, all Voyageurs except the Aumonier will place the Chapeau over their heart by inserting the right hand into the Chapeau, with the thumb on the outside. Following the prayer, all voyageurs will re-cover.

Regarding the Pow/MIA chair. A notion was made, seconded and approved to add to the Plan Of Voiture Promenade Room Instruction 2 is changed to "The Altar should be directly in front of (approximately 3-6 feet) the Chef de Gare. The official Altar Cloth, when spread over the Altar, faces the Chef de Train as does the POW/MIA chair.

The Directeur thanked everyone in attendance and the Committee for their participation in this Ritual Committee meeting.

Grande Du Arizona



Grand du Arizona and members from Voiture 73 present flowers and a 40&8 Certificate of Appreciation to Helen Webster for her exceptional support to the greater Tucson metro area Flags for 1st Graders program. Helen's Filipino luncheon fundraising efforts have generated over \$1,500 for this program alone this year. Not only is she and her husband involved in raising funds for the program, she along with her husband (Willie Webster) are also flag 1st grade flag presenters. Currently, Voiture 73 has over 5,000 flags in preparation for this upcoming academic school year, where Voiture 73 plans on conducting flag presentations to 50-60 schools. L to R: Willie Webster, Helen Webster, Steve 'Chico' Aguirre & Jon Upchurch

Grande Du France



Grande du France Janie Miller presented a young medic with a special Scholarship for an EMT - we did a special fundraiser for that in the form of a home-cooked 5-course French dinner.

GRANDE DU FLORIDA



Voiture 304 Jacksonville Florida presented a scholarship check and a nurse's watch to graduate Rachel Page during our Promenade On August 1st

Grande Du Minnesota



Grand Chef de Gare (2nd term) Steve Dircks visited Voiture 414 for their Promenade bringing back the Paul Bunyan gavel that originated in Minnesota. The Voyageurs that night raised \$101.00 for Steve's project this year which is Gaits of Hope.

GRANDE DU FLORIDA



On Sept 9th, National Sous Directeur of Child Welfare Terry Lee installed the newly elected Officers of Voiture Locale # 795 of Naples, FL. A banquet meal followed.

Grande Du New Hampshire



The Grande du New Hampshire held its yearly Merci Box Car Ceremony on September 9th.

L to R: Seated Tony Travia Grande Chef NH, Steve Shillinglaw Grande NH Correspondent and John Tousignant Honorary French Consul NH. Speaking Jay Ruais Mayor of Manchester, NH and Standing Tony Rabbia Commissaire Intendant Grande NH.

Grande De Wisconsin



On October 12th at the Tomah American Legion, Monroe County Voiture Locale # 804 hosted their annual "Brown Collar" Wreck where 10 new Voyageurs from the Grande de Wisconsin joined the ranks of La Societe. Grand Chef de Gare Ken Laatsch was the Wrecking Chef.

GRANDE DU VIRGINIA



Voyageurs visiting the Virginia Merci Boxcar at the Virginia War Museum in Newport Beach

SPECIAL AWARDS

Directeur - Wayne Sorrentino

Greetings Voyageurs, Dames, and Friends, as the Special Awards Directeur, it was my committee's honor to host and present the Special Awards selectees for 2024 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 six Sous Directeurs: From the Grande du California, Sous Directeur and Judge for City or Town of the Year, **Mildred S. Wright-Pearson**. From the Grande du Florida, Sous Directeur and Judge for Law Officer of the Year, **Lawson Dukes**. From the Grande du South Dakota, Sous Directeur and Judge for HERO of the Year, **Sean D Johnson**. From the Grande du Indiana, Sous Directeur and Judge for VOYAGEUR of the Year, **Donald T Caudell, Jr.** From the Grande du Virginia, Sous Directeur and Assistant for Voyageur of the Year **Geri Stephens**. From the Grande du Arizona, Sous Directeur and Assistant for Hero of the Year, **Ben Carrillo**. Thank you all for your untiring efforts and due diligence with performing your assigned tasks. Every Grande should be submitting a nomination for EACH AWARD and those nominated & forwarded to Nationale 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 2024 Award Recipients and their Biographies.



VOYAGEUR OF THE YEAR

The Voyageur of the Year for 2024 is Voyageur James Sweeney from Voiture 1031, Grande du Texas.

Invited into La Société in March 1992 while stationed in Schweinfurt, Germany, Jim Sweeney became active immediately as Drapeau and a member of the Wrecking Crew of V-1524.

In 2000, Jim transferred to V-1261 in Kansas where he served as Grand Youth Sports Directeur, Grand Conducteur, Locale Garde de la Porte, Locale Lampiste and Locale Chef de Gare. Jim was recognized as Locale Chef de Gare of the Year in Kansas in 1999.

Jim transferred to V-1031 of Texas where he served as Locale Conducteur, Locale Commissaire Intendant, Locale Chef de Train and Locale Chef de Gare.

In 2023 Jim was elected as Grand Chef de Train du Texas and stepped up to run the Central States Prom when the Grand Chef was unable to attend.

Jim represents La Société at the Central Texas Area Veterans Advisory Committee which provides communications among area veterans organizations, to promote and coordinate activities of interest to the military and retired community and to cooperate with other civic and fraternal organizations.

Jim has donated many hours to Meals on Wheels and continues to do so.

Under his leadership, V-1031 has donated food to children in need through the Killen Independent School District.

Jim worked tirelessly to regain the tax-exempt status for V-1031 after a previous Commissaire Intendant inadvertently allowed the exemption to slip into revocation.

Jim, along with a group of veteran volunteers, frequently gather to honor unaccompanied Veterans funerals at the Central Texas Cemetery.

Jim and members of V-1031 have brought back the Flag for First Graders Program in their area, visiting 14 schools and distributing over 1100 flags in the Killen area.

Jim, thank you for all you do for La Société. May I present to you the Nationale Voyageur of the Year for 2024, James Sweeney of the Grande du Texas.

HERO OF THE YEAR

HERO of the Year 2024 is Trooper John Berndt of the Highway Patrol of the Grande du South Dakota. John and his wife Tanya live in Aberdeen, SD and have been married for 23 years. They have two sons, Tyler and Mason. Tyler enlisted in the North Dakota Air National Guard upon graduation in 2023 and attends North Dakota University. Mason is a high school junior, active in sports and other activities.

John is an Army veteran, assigned to B Btry 2/147FA in Aberdeen, SD from 1997 to 2006. He was deployed to OIF2 in 2003 as the Rear Detachment NCO. He entered the South Dakota Highway Patrol Academy, graduating in 2006 becoming a State Trooper. John has been employed with the SD Highway Patrol for 24 years.

John was awarded the District 1 DUI Apprehension Award in 2008 and the Criminal Interdiction Award in 2010. He also received the VFW Post 17 Gold Star Award in 2018 and the Superintendent's Award for Bravery in 2024.

Additionally, John has been a Drug Recognition Expert, Field Training Officer, Forensic Mapper, Assistant Squad Leader, Motor Carrier Trooper, Crash Reconstructionist, Unmanned Aircraft System Pilot and District Crash Coordinator. He has attended over 1,000 hours of advanced crash reconstruction training and has investigated over 100 fatal crashes. John instructs crash investigation courses to agencies across the state.

On August 8, 2023, John was on duty working on patrol at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. John observed and then assisted a motorist attempting to jump start his vehicle. John quickly realized something was not right with one of the subjects and he was able to get a Good Samaritan, who was assisting Fluty, away from him and to safety. As John worked through the encounter, Fluty was uncooperative, failed to identify himself, and was displaying a sovereign citizen type demeanor. By the time Dispatch had confirmed the vehicle and several weapons inside were stolen from Rawlins, Wyoming, Fluty had fled into the woods and the several hours search for him was unsuccessful. Fluty was involved in an armed robbery / shooting incident in Rapids City the day before.

The following day, Trooper John was again on patrol at the rally. Around 1000, John observed Fluty and immediately confronted him. Knowing Fluty was armed and there were approx. 100 people at the "Big D" gas station across the street, John flanked Fluty to the east in an attempt to keep the public safe so Fluty could not run into the crowd with a weapon. Fluty produced a gun from his waistband and fired at Trooper John who was able to avoid getting hit. Fluty ran towards Trooper John's car in an attempt to steal it but John's Tremco device was active so Fluty would be unable to get the car into gear. Trooper John took cover and engaged Fluty, firing his duty weapon along with an off-duty Minnesota deputy sheriff who came to his aid. Fluty was struck several times, ultimately surrendered and was taken into custody.

Fluty admitted to Attempted First Degree Murder (Law Enforcement) and Commission of a Felony While Armed with a Firearm. He faced 75 years in prison and was ultimately sentenced to 54 years a few days ago in Mead County Circuit Court.

May I present Trooper John Berndt of the South Dakota Highway Patrol, the 40&8 Societies' Nationale Hero of the Year for 2024.

CITY / TOWN OF THE YEAR

City of the Year is Anaheim from the Grande du California. Anaheim's support for Veterans extends to Online Veteran Resources allowing active-duty personnel, Veterans and their families to receive information about current programs and promotions in Anaheim. Understanding the challenge of returning to the civilian workforce, the Anaheim Workforce Connection gives priority services to Veterans seeking employment. The city website promotes job fairs, both in and near the city, to improve their citizens' employment prospects.

Housing in Southern California is expensive, and the major effect is homelessness. The Anaheim Housing Authority gives preference to Veterans when assigning housing vouchers for those who live or work in the city of Anaheim. Vouchers are offered to assist Veteran families where rent is over 30% of their income. They also provide information on several state and non-profit programs which offer housing assistance, home loan programs and shelter programs. Discounts of 10% - 12% on utilities can be applied to Veterans. Assistance comes in several forms, which makes Anaheim a Veteran-friendly community.

As an expression of the city's gratitude to Anaheim's Veterans and active-duty members, banners honoring their service are flown on light poles throughout the city. They also have special banners and a webpage honoring fallen heroes to assure their sacrifice is not forgotten.

Raising awareness of Veterans within the community, Anaheim pays tribute to their veteran residents with ceremonies honoring veterans. Anaheim was designated as a Purple Heart City in 2014. Ceremonies honoring veterans are hosted by the city including Memorial Day, Fourth of July,

Flag Day and Veterans Day. This is in stark contrast to surrounding cities who have been eliminating their city-hosted ceremonies.

Active-duty support is provided by the City of Anaheim Marine Adoption Committee. They provide community support through private donations for the Marines of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). The committee has been helping Marines and Sailors since 2007.

The city of Anaheim will soon add another accolade as the Home of the Southern California State Veterans Cemetery, continuing their long tradition of supporting veterans and honoring their service, with a prospective site along the State Route 91 Freeway in the city.

Unfortunately, the Mayor of Anaheim, Ashleigh Aitken was unable to attend Prom. The 40&8 Society thanks the city's leaders for your support for your local veterans. May I present the 40&8 Society's City of the Year for 2024, Anaheim, California.

LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The Law Officer of the Year for 2024 is Patrol Officer Peter Eberling of the Bolingbrook Police Department of the Grande du Illinois.

On August 20, 2023, officers were dispatched to the 100 block of South Bolingbrook Drive for the report of shots fired. While headed to the scene, officers learned the offender had committed a retail theft, and after being confronted, shot at the business with an unknown type of firearm.

Officer Eberling located the suspect and attempted to make contact. The suspect ran toward a residence with Officer Eberling pursuing, while giving verbal commands for the suspect to stop and lay down on the ground. The suspect ran into a residence in the 100 block of Briarcliff Road. Officer Eberling then observed the suspect reappear with a handgun and the suspect began shooting at Officer Eberling, striking him in the abdomen and the leg. Officer Eberling returned fire, and although shot and bleeding, maintained sight of the suspect, and relayed information to dispatch of what had occurred. Fellow officers arrived to assist and transported him to the hospital for treatment of his injuries. The offender was later placed into custody following a standoff at the residence.

Officer Eberling was treated and released from the hospital a few days later. The release from the hospital was only the beginning for Officer Eberling. The hard part was beginning the physical and emotional recovery from this traumatic incident.

In just six short months, Officer Eberling returned to full duty. His determination to return to full duty was nothing short of astounding and his determination is a model for all to follow.

Officer Eberling received the Bolingbrook Police Department Medal of Valor for his actions during this incident. Officer Eberling was awarded the Bolingbrook Police Department Purple Heart for injuries sustained in the line of duty. Officer Eberling was selected by his peers as the Police Officer of the Year for 2023. His actions were consistent with the best traditions of law enforcement and the Bolingbrook Police Department.

Our National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2024 is Officer Peter Eberling of the Bolingbrook Police Department from the Grande du Illinois.

Irving M. "HAL" Halpern Award

The Irving M. "HAL" Halpern Award is presented to the Grande whose nominee was selected as our Law Officer of the Year. We proudly present this award to the Grand Chef de Gare du Texas, Keith A. Reiss, Jr.

William P. Lyons Award

The William P. Lyons Award is annually presented to the Grande whose nominee was selected as our HERO of the Year. This award was presented to the Grand Chef de Gare du South Dakota, Sean D. Johnson.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Special Awards Program.

Thank you to one and all for your kind attention.

God Bless our troops and God Bless America.



MEMBERSHIP

Directeur - Frank Angelo

Greetings Voyageurs,

I hope this article finds you doing well. The information I am working from is from 24 October 2024 Membership updates from Nationale. I wanted to have the most up-to-date statistics when I wrote this article, before my deadline.

We are very fortunate to basically have the same Membership Team that we had from last year. I really did not have to make very many changes to my email distribution list. Membership is still the lifeblood to this Organization and every other organization out there. We have outstanding programs to give assistance to a variety of needs, but we need the members to make these programs successful.

We still need to get our 40 & 8 name out. I still wear something every day that has something to do with our organization on it. We want to get to the point when we ask someone if they have heard of us, and they respond yes. Currently you could ask ten veterans if they have ever heard of the 40 & 8 at least 70% or more of them are going to say NO. Unfortunately, when this Organization was formed, we were formed as a secret society. We must get our name out there and what we do to help generate interest in 40 & 8.

At Promenade Nationale Membership meeting we approved the modification to our Nomination for Membership form. The modification was adding the email address to the City, State, Zip line. Please make sure if you have not downloaded the new form please do so and use that one. The email address is a great tool to have, while trying to contact our Voyageurs. Hopefully everyone carries at least one membership form with them, so they have it when they need it, the wallet size is an excellent option.

Hopefully, everyone knows the Nationale website <https://www.fortyandeight.org> the website has been redesigned and it is more user friendly. The contact information is now password protected. I am not going to put the password out in this nonsecure publication. We can get the password to you in a secure platform. We still must get out of the previous mindset of having to be a Legionnaire for several years, before being invited into our Organization. We still need to retain, recruit and bring back our former Voyageurs that have strayed away from us for whatever reason.

Our current Membership stands at 7,009 paid members with a 45.72% of our goal. We are currently behind last year's pace by 712 members. I know the Membership Team that has been assembled from Nationale, Grande to the Locale is working very hard for you so we can achieve our GOAL of 100% in Membership! Every Voyageur is part of the Membership Team, so if you think someone would be a good Voyageur Invite them. I know WE can achieve our goal of 100% plus in Membership. If you are reading this article and do not have your 2025 Membership Card, please reach out to your Locale Voiture and pay your dues.

If anyone needs any assistance from the membership team, please do not hesitate to reach out to us either by email or phone and we will gladly do whatever we can to assist. We have great programs in this Outstanding Organization, but we need the members to make those programs successful.

Grande Du Oklahoma



The ugly Christmas sweater contest at the Great Okie Wreck in Lawton.

MEMBERSHIP 2025

October 31st

	AREA	2024	2025	PERCENT
ALABAMA	3	102	49	48.04%
ALASKA	1	142	49	34.51%
ARIZONA	1	325	109	33.54%
ARKANSAS	3	60	19	31.67%
CALIFORNIA	2	558	342	61.29%
COLORADO	1	51	32	62.75%
CONNECTICUT	4	102	66	64.71%
DELAWARE	2	26	20	76.92%
DIST OR COLUMBIA	2	15	4	26.67%
FLORIDA	3	504	245	48.61%
FRANCE	3	98	64	65.31%
GEORGIA	3	313	69	22.04%
GERMANY	4	63	62	98.41%
IDAHO	1	88	65	73.86%
ILLINOIS	2	882	346	39.23%
INDIANA	1	1907	941	48.51%
IOWA	2	190	65	34.21%
KANSAS	2	310	126	40.65%
KENTUCKY	3	160	49	30.63%
LATIN AMERICA	2	13	4	30.77%
LOUISIANA	3	462	227	49.13%
MAINE	4	76	32	42.11%
MARYLAND	4	198	100	50.51%
MASSACHUSETTS	4	86	37	43.02%
MICHIGAN	4	673	270	40.12%
MINNESOTA	4	803	375	46.70%
MISSISSIPPI	3	124	79	63.71%
MISSOURI	1	633	316	49.92%
MONTANA	1	73	30	41.10%
NEBRASKA	2	261	116	44.44%
NEVADA	1	15	17	113.33%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1	59	25	42.37%
NEW JERSEY	2	35	27	77.14%
NEW MEXICO	1	5	4	80.00%
NEW YORK	4	615	382	62.11%
NORTH CAROLINA	3	403	159	39.45%
NORTH DAKOTA	2	153	43	28.10%
OHIO	3	884	420	47.51%
OKLAHOMA	2	92	62	67.39%
OREGON	1	116	67	57.76%
PENNSYLVANIA	4	797	323	40.53%
SOUTH CAROLINA	3	221	108	48.87%
SOUTH DAKOTA	2	296	153	51.69%
TENNESSEE	3	61	6	9.84%
TEXAS	2	227	138	60.79%
UTAH	1	1	0	0.00%
VERMONT	2	29	22	75.86%
VIRGINIA	3	307	245	79.80%
WASHINGTON	1	392	148	37.76%
WEST VIRGINIA	3	134	35	26.12%
WISCONSIN	4	755	459	60.79%
WYOMING	1	5	7	140.00%
V2000		429	86	20.05%
TOTALS		15329	7244	47.26%

AREA	2024	2025	Percent	
Area - 4 Lonnie Haynes	4168	2062	49.47%	1st Place
Area - 2 Nick Weyers	3087	1468	47.55%	2nd Place
Area - 1 Ralph Turner	3812	1810	47.48%	3rd Place
Area - 3 Robert Hickey	3833	1774	46.28%	4th Place
V-2000	429	86	20.05%	



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer
Lonnie Haynes



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer
Robert Hickey



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer
Ralph Turner



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer
Nick Weyers



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NATIONAL BOX CAR ASSOCIATION

Secrétaire Treasurer - Virgil Blum

The Box Car program has been busy this year! I want to thank everyone that has participated in our program. The Nationale Promenade in Sandusky OH was a fun time had by everyone.



The Box Car Director position has been filled by Steve Dircks from Minnesota. I look forward to a year of great leadership. I would like to personally thank Mike Robberstad, Lonnie Haynes and Doyle Wood for their contribution to our program in the years of service they provided to Box Car. I am sure our friendship will continue the same. At this time, we also welcome, Fred Mullis to Area A, Area D Vance Chertier, Area E Dave Knutson. Please take time to look at the new 40 & 8 website under Box Car to see your Grand Sous Directeur. The Prom had 1 Licky from Minnesota \$500. The Merci Maintenance Fund \$3400.00

The Box Car meeting at Nationale again distributed our yearly funds The donations are as follows: Membership \$2000 Hero of the Year \$1000 VAVS \$3500 Wheelchairs Rolling \$1500 40&8 Magazine \$500 Natl Historian for Chef de Chemin de Fer \$300 Ohio Va Clinic \$500 Youth Sports \$500 Child Welfare \$500 Voyager Natl Building fund \$300. The Prom had 1 Licky from Minnesota \$500. The Merci Maintenance Fund \$2400.00.

The Merci Maintenance deadline is July 1st. \$150.00 is given to every Grande that completes the form and buys at least \$150.00 of Box Car pins or cards. 16 Grandes received their check last year. If your state has the Merci Boxcar you are eligible to get this check. This is a great way to improve your boxcar. I have enjoyed talking to several Grands as to programs that are being prepared. Please call or email me as to the date you are celebrating the 75th anniversary.

If your Grande plans to have your locomotive at Gettysburg PA for the Nationale Promenade please send me a message by the July 1st deadline. There is a form that needs to be completed. Any Locomotives that arrive and do not have the form completed will not be eligible for the money stipend for attending the Prom.

virg4huskers@yahoo.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Directeur - Renny Keagle

Even though we have a Directeur, Sous' and a Committee like other programs, we are not a program but rather a resource to help and assist in the area of Public Relations. These resources consist of a Public Relations Manual available on the national website, myself and the committee ready to help and assist in PR. So we are working in the background with tools at our disposal to promote the advantages of a public relations endeavor especially at the Locale and Grand level. At the forefront is the Press Association of La Societe. Those members have the advantage of receiving first the P.A.L.S. monthly newsletter The Bulletin as well as exclusive Press Credentials. The Bulletin of course being a monthly 12-page public relations instrument to inform membership on the best approaches for both internal and external PR. Not many know we have a pin exclusive for our members that comes with membership. Anyone wishing to check out what we do at P.A.L.S., drop me a line and we will get you some issues and I'll provide details - membership is non-profit and low cost and a bargain for the information received. Public Relations is already being done behind the scenes by our Chef de Gares, Correspondants, L'Editeurs and Historiens. Our Publicistes are working in the forefront. Our membership conducts PR everyday with our storytelling and ambassadorship. So we must now push into 2025 and our 106th year realizing the advantages that Public Relations can provide.



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PTSD

Andrew "Doc" Berry

Good evening, Voyageurs Militaire!

First, let me say how much I enjoyed seeing everyone at the Promenade Nationale in Sandusky OH. Looking forward to seeing you all and even more of you for the next two years in Gettysburg PA.

I want to express my gratitude to Passe Chefs de Chemin de Fer Frank Kronen, John Digilio, Ted Lang, and Frank Campo for being so supportive of my efforts to speak about PTSD and suicide prevention. I also would like to thank the new Chef de Chemin de Fer Paul Emmert and Correspondant Nationale Ron Rolfes for their faith in me. Last but certainly not least, I need to thank my mentor, Passe Grand Chef du NY Wayne Sorrentino for guiding my path and encouraging it in our Société.

For those of you who were not able to attend Promenade Nationale, here is a YouTube link to the PTSD presentation that I gave

<https://youtu.be/x8Lz6vbfTRs?si=1ZldCapvJy6PzsOI>

If any of you have trouble accessing this link, either email or call me and I will get that YouTube link to you personally.

I stated in that live presentation, and I will restate it here: what people do not realize about PTSD is that it goes far beyond terrible memories, sleep loss, nightmares, anger, hypervigilance, anxiety, depression and all the other telltale symptoms. It has been found, thanks to sophisticated neuroimaging techniques, that the biochemistry and physiology of the brain changes with the repeated adrenaline blasts experienced during combat, irregular sleep and sleep deprivation, low quality nutrition, deafening noise, and blinding explosions. This is to say that a person comes out of their service with changes to their brain that are not due to normal development and maturing. As many of you have heard me say elsewhere, so many go into the service as "Person A" and come out the other end of their service as "Person B." And is it any wonder? I believe one of the major contributing factors to this personality change is the change in brain chemistry and physiology.

What many people are also not aware of is that life gets more and more difficult for Veterans as they become more and more aware of their symptoms. But there is hope. I need to point out that the diagnosis of PTSD does not need to define a Veteran's life, and as much as I dislike the term 'manage', it is possible to manage PTSD symptoms.

By 'management', I'm talking about any combination of psychotherapy, medications, hobbies like artwork or horseback riding, meditation or anything else that works. When it comes to recovery and healing, unfortunately one size does not fit all. Veterans have to engage in a creative process to figure out what works for them. I help facilitate this every day in my consulting room.

Let me reiterate something else that I said in my talk in Sandusky OH: let's make talking about mental health the norm, instead of the exception. Because the longer it stays the exception and we don't talk about it, the longer suicide will continue to amass its body count. I steadfastly maintain that this can be avoided with the following sentiment:

"Open your mouth, and the pain comes out."

Carville Star

Directeur - Tom Adams

As I write this, the 2024 presidential election is approaching. In 2000, 59.5% of those registered chose to vote in the presidential election. In 2020 the percentage voting rose to about two-thirds of those eligible or 66.8%, meaning this important privilege of U.S. citizenship was not exercised by one-third of our population.

In his book *Alone No Longer*, Stanley Stein notes that upon his arrival at the Carville leprosarium (US Public Health Hospital) one of the first things he noted



was the patients' love for talking politics. Long before they achieved the right to vote, in 1932 patients "voted" by straw ballot with 344 of 367 patients participating, choosing Roosevelt over Hoover.

At least one patriotic and passionate patient was so determined to vote that for five consecutive Novembers he escaped Carville through a hole in the fence to "exercise his franchise at some mysterious precinct" where he met voter requirements. Upon return to Carville, he paid the price for absconding and spent up to 120 days in the Carville jail.

In 1934 the American Legion began its support to grant Carville patients the right to register and vote. After years of lengthy debate, in 1946 a constitutional amendment and an enabling act passed both houses of the Louisiana legislature. Earliest Carville registration rolls contained 133 names. (Many eligibles could not register because they would not give their "true" names, choosing to remain anonymous.) On 20 January 1948 Carville's patients for the first time exercised their right to vote in an election (a gubernatorial election).

Your Carville Star Committee recently voted to approve our program project for 2024-2025. This project will have a great impact on the day-to-day operation of the National Hansen's Disease Museum at Carville. With your help, we intend to purchase a security system that will represent a significant upgrade from the museum's existing capability. We will be seeking your donations for this project and as true for past projects we will rely on your generosity.

Please continue to support our Buy-A-Clinic Program, Buy-A-Country Program and subscriptions to *The STAR*. (On the new 40&8 website go to "Resources" drop down - click on "Overview"- then click on "Forms" and find the forms needed to order programs or subscriptions.)

For any questions regarding the Carville Star Program, contact the Sous for your Area.

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AREA 4 - IL, IN, MN, MI, ND, WI, OH, France, IA, SD, Germany, OK, TX, KS, NE

Sous Directeur Thomas J. Orval,

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Nurses Training

Directeur - Kevin Johnson

For a little while now, I have been debating on what to write this article about. For quite some time we have been talking about the expected shortage of nurses in the near future. And there has been much written on our need to continue to support nursing students through locale, grand, and national scholarship programs. I would like to talk about the Boland Trust scholarship program in this article.



There was a discussion at the last Nurses Training committee meeting in Ohio, about creating another national scholarship within the Nurses Training Program. I am not a supporter of that idea because we are not utilizing the national scholarship program that we have in place currently. That being the Boland Trust Fund.

I would like to take this opportunity to fully endorse the Boland Trust Fund and ask for your support and utilization of that fund to support our nursing students with scholarships. We have the capital available; the problem is applications for the scholarship are not being requested.

The Boland Trust Fund offers four different scholarships. (1) the traditional scholarship options, (2) the limited scholarship option, (3) the advanced degree program scholarship, (4) and the At-large scholarship option. All the information needed to apply for any of these scholarships can be found on the Forty and Eight website. All four of these scholarships are so very easy to obtain if the applicant meets the criteria. It took me

about an hour worth of work to get a young lady \$ 1,500 dollars to help with the cost of her education. One of the main things I would like to see this year is that we are giving back to our communities at the national level as well as the grand and locale levels. The steps to attain a scholarship are very simple. Call or email Terri Taylor and request an application. Give it to the student to first complete their portion, have them take it to the school to complete their portion. The student then returns it to you. Have the Chef and the Correspondant sign it and return it too National and that's it!

I would love to have a record setting year on the number of scholarships given in a single year. Ensuring that every student in the nursing field in need of financial assistance is aware of the opportunities we offer is my goal. And to reach that goal I need every member of our organization to go online learn about the Boland Trust Fund and what they have to offer, then use it at your Locale and Grande levels. We donate thousands of dollars each year to the Boland Trust Fund. That money is generated from donations and the sale of the Nurses Training pins, we must show the supporters of this program that those funds are getting back to our communities. The Boland Trust committee members can only work with the applications they receive, and they simply are not receiving applications. So, I would like to see every grand that has a nurses training program in place be able to report that they received at least one Boland Trust scholarship this year.

The National Nurses Training Program asking for support this year from every Locale and every Grand in the following areas.

- Utilization of the Boland Trust Fund Scholarship Programs.
- To submit an applicant name for Nurse of the Year Award.
- To submit your end of the year report to National
- And your continued support of this program through your donations and sales of the Nurses Training pins.

Thank You for all that you do for this program. With your support we will continue to have an outstanding National Nurses Training Program

MEMBERSHIP EXCELLENCE



100% Grand Voitures who received special certificates in achieving this goal at the National Promenade.



Great way to promote La Société
National Nurses Training Directeur
Kevin Johnson's vehicle

SCENES FROM THE 105TH NATIONAL PROMENADE



Chef de Chemin de Fer 2017 Mark Moots donates \$500 the Cabane Nationale on behalf of his wife Willa Dean and himself.



Voyageurs manning the Public Relations and Child Welfare tables.



David and GERALYN Stephens along with Grand Chef de Gare Alice Cooper on the Promenade floor Saturday morning.



The National Box Car Association donated \$500 to the VA Outpatient Clinic of Sandusky, Ohio. L to R: Sous Directeur Sam Queen, Secrétaire/Treasurer Virgil Blum, Outpatient Clinic Rep Sara Williamson and National NBCA Directeur Paul Emmert.



James Sweeney of the Grande du Texas was the 2024 recipient of the National Voyageur of the Year award.



Steve Dircks and his companion for the next 365 days, the infamous Paul Bunyan gavel.



Members of the Carville Star program at the table on Wednesday morning selling their wares.



Taking registration for the 106th National Promenade in Gettysburg Pennsylvania for next year.



Joe Jamnick and Mac MacCarthy along with WWII Navy Vet Dave Dumas of the Grande du Michigan visiting the Voyageurs and Dames.



Kenneth "Doc" Lafleur receives the National Meritorious Award from Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank Campo at the Friday evening banquet.



National Public Relations Directeur Renslar Keagle presents a Public Relations Award to Grande du Florida Grand Chef de Gare Paul Bosco.



Alabama Grand Chef de Gare Paul Vishaway won the Correspondants Challenge for the 105th program book.



Lonnie Haynes won the National Box Car Association "Top Gun" Award for merchandise sales. He is shown receiving his award from Virgil Blum.



David Knutson of Texas was this years winner of the Rodney Strickland Mr. Box Car Award



Kevin Johnson and Johnny Rodgers manning the Delegate and Alternate credentials table.



Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank Campo and his Aide de Campo's



New National Officers be sworn in.



National Chef de Chemin de Fer Paul Emmert Sr. about to take the oath of office for 2025.



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LA PRESIDENTE NATIONALE CINDY HICKEY

Greetings To All Dames and Voyageurs

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope your Thanksgiving is filled with Love, Joy, and warm wishes for the beginning of the holiday season.

I am filled with gratitude and excitement as I embark on my journey as Madame Presidente this year. It is an honor beyond words to take on this role. Thank You for your faith and support, I look forward to serving every Dame, Voyageur, and all members of La Societe.

Congratulations to our new **Chef de Chemin de Fer, Paul J. Emmert, Sr.**, I look forward to traveling the United States "Wooring". We will have an amazing year.

As I take on this amazing role as Madame Presidente, I carry with me the many experiences of having served in several different positions within the La Femmes, from La Presidente Locale many times to La Grande Avocat, and the various positions I have held nationally with my favorite being La Aumonier. Every position has enhanced my commitment to supporting our Veterans, empowering all Dames and uplifting their families in our community.

October brought me to my first official visit to the Shamrock Wreck. I was escorted to my room by PNP Janet Walsh and Cheryl Boswell and was greeted with beautiful Flowers and a super Basket filled with lots of goodies from Georgia (I loved it all, especially Boyd's Cookies, Jam, Wine, and a special Tinker Bell that I didn't have in my collection) designed by Charlotte Fordham. Then we were off to Dinner at the Drift Away Restaurant in Savannah with, Dell and Bill Simpson, Cheryl and Lloyd Boswell, Janet Walsh, and Lee Boxman. The food was delicious and the conversation uplifting. Then we were off to the wreck and part of the jury and surprise, the Dames found the PG Guilty. We had lots of laughs and a lot of money was raised. Oh, and Jay, the Grand Chef of Georgia was in the stocks and more money was raised for Youth Sports. Then, we returned to the hospitality room, where there was lots of WOORING!!!

Saturday brought us to the Butterduck Winery for a little business and a lot of fun. I can't thank Charlotte Fordham, Janet Walsh, Cheryl Boswell, Sandy Wood, and all the Georgia Dames for an AMAZING day. We had lots of conversation at the petit Cheminot, Georgia Dames, you have it all going on! It was also nice to see Florida and South and North Carolina Dames as well. Saturday night brought us back to the post for the banquet, the food was terrific, and the guest speaker (besides Me LOL), J. William Breen was the grandson of Joseph Breen, one of the founders of our beloved organization. He was fascinating and had lots of fun facts.

I want to send my extreme Thanks to the Dames of Georgia for all, your Love, Hugs, and Camaraderie! I look forward to seeing everyone there next Year!

As we move forward this year let us, continue to embrace the spirit of unity, empower each other, and honor our veterans by serving them with compassion and dedication.

**My motto is Let's Work Hard but Let's Play Hard
and Together We Will Do Great Things!
Best Always: En Service Cindy Hickey**



CABANE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

GRANDE	AREA	2024	2025	% of GOAL	SHORT
Alabama	1	16	9	56.25%	-7
Alaska	2	10	0	0.00%	-10
Arkansas	2	6	0	0.00%	-6
Cabane Nat.		14	13	92.86%	-1
Florida	2	107	46	42.99%	-61
Georgia	2	80	55	68.75%	-25
Illinois	1	75	52	69.33%	-23
Indiana	1	369	87	23.58%	-282
Louisiana	2	22	12	54.55%	-10
Maine	1	33	10	30.30%	-23
Massachusetts	2	13	13	100.00%	0
Michigan	2	161	91	56.52%	-70
Minnesota	1	98	54	55.10%	-44
Mississippi	1	14	0	0.00%	-14
Missouri	2	27	28	103.70%	1
Nebraska	2	9	5	55.56%	-4
New York	1	60	7	11.67%	-53
North Carolina	1	59	10	16.95%	-49
Ohio	2	28	21	75.00%	-7
Oklahoma	1	31	24	77.42%	-7
Oregon	2	53	50	94.34%	-3
Pennsylvania	1	24	20	83.33%	-4
South Carolina	2	80	28	35.00%	-52
South Dakota	1	18	1	5.56%	-17
Texas	1	35	22	62.86%	-13
Virginia	2	9	0	0.00%	-9
Washington	2	133	8	6.02%	-125
Wisconsin	2	100	80	80.00%	-20
TOTALS		1684	746	44.30%	-938

News From the Department of Veteran's Affairs

From the desk of Ron Rolfes Correspondant Nationale

October 23 thru 25, 2024 I found myself in Washington, D.C. attending the VA Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee "Executive Committee" Meeting. For the past, several years our October meeting has been in D. C. with the hopes of meeting with the VA Secretary or at least one of the "Top Three." This year we met with Margaret "Meg" Kabat, VA Chief of Staff.

Ms. Kabat, a licensed clinical social worker, bringing more than 25 years of service to Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. She covered several topics during her presentation and here are a few. Caregiver Support has grown by leaps and bounds. There are now over 50,000 enrolled and the program continues to grow. The biggest problem seen thus far is determining what classifies as a caregiver. Meaning how much support to a Veteran qualifies as "caregiver support." It seems to vary from station to station. They are working to standardize the program across the country, and they are qualifying more and more caregivers each day.

She also discussed Veteran Homelessness, which if you know anything about the VA Secretary, which is one of his 5 key initiatives, to end Veteran Homelessness.

Although she did throw some figures out, what caught my attention the most was she discussed the "functional zero homelessness." Functional zero is a service system that must be able to provide permanent housing to everyone depending on it to secure such housing. Some of the cities that have reached functional zero are New Orleans, Houston, and Las Vegas. VA continues to work towards functional zero across the country.

She mentioned the fact that our VA facilities could not operate at the standards they do today without the dedicated Volunteers in our facilities. There were over 27,000 Regularly Scheduled (RS) Volunteers that provided 3,495,259.43 volunteer hours. Also recorded were 76,516 Occasional Volunteers with 312,179.04 hours for a total of 3,807,438.47 Volunteer Hours. After her presentation she took several questions from the committee. I asked a question to her regarding the fact that we were going to see a major reduction in RS volunteers because of the fact that they were going to have to be rebadged every six months. After one of the VA Central Office staff attempted to jump in and comment on my statement (question), she quickly chimed in and wanted more information on what was transpiring regarding the badging issue for Volunteers. This would allow her office as well as, if necessary, the Secretaries to get involved to rectify the issue.

There were our standard updates by all the subcommittees, and we had a few other guests come in as well. One speaker of note was Ms. Kimber Parry, Population Scientist, VHA Office of Rural Health Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Salt Lake City. Her topic was the Rural WAVE Initiative. WAVE short for Wellness and Veteran Engagement focuses on strengthening interpersonal connections, renewing a sense of purpose and mission, and improving overall quality of life for Veterans and their families. Rural WAVE strives to be inclusive and focuses on rural Veterans, but also encourages families and civilians interested in supporting Veterans to participate in community reintegration. She stated that in order for a facility to qualify, fifty percent of the Veterans needed to be rural. We also learned that her office was looking at ways to collaborate with DAV or whomever to standardize the onboarding of transportation drivers. The NAC Recommendations subcommittee is currently in the process of writing another recommendation regarding that very topic. All in all, an interesting brief. If you would like any more information on any of the other topics that were covered during this meeting, feel free to reach out.

cornnat@fortyandeigh.org





CAJUN WRECK
HOLIDAY INN & SUITES LAFAYETTE NORTH
 2219 NW Evangeline Thruway, Lafayette LA 70501
 PHONE: (337) 706-8199
 Wed, Feb. 12, 2025 – Sun, Feb. 16, 2025



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12	Activities to be determined Dutch-Geat restaurant to be determined	6:00 P.M. (Front Lobby)
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14	CARVILLE VISIT. MEET IN LOBBY	9:30 A.M. (Front Lobby)
	EARLY BIRD PARTY KANGAROO KIDNEY	6:30 – 8:30 P.M. 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15	CAJUN WRECK	9:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
	CHEF RAY BOY LUNCH to be determined	12 NOON
	LA FEMME CHEMINOT CASH BAR BANQUET	2:00 P.M. 6:00 P.M. 7:00 P.M.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16	MID-WINTER LOUISIANNE 2ND CHEMINOT	9:30 A.M.

CAJUN WRECK REGISTRATION IS \$60.00 PER PERSON (VOYAGEUR OR DAME). REGISTRATION COVERS ALL OF THE ABOVE EVENTS. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "CAJUN WRECK" AND MAIL TO **KEITH MILLER**, 1118 Egan Highway, Egan, LA 70501, DUE NO LATER THAN JAN 28, 2025. Call phone (337) 290-2228.

All activities will be at Headquarters hotel: Holiday Inn & Suites Lafayette North, 2219 NW Evangeline Thruway, Lafayette, LA 70501. MAKE ROOM REQUESTS ON YOUR OWN. 337 706 8199. LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE ATTENDING THE CAJUN WRECK.

✂ CUT OUT AND MAIL TO KEITH MILLER ✂

PLEASE NOTE: WRECK/BANQUET REGISTRATION CHARGES CANNOT BE PUT ON A CREDIT CARD.

ACCOMMODATIONS: ALL ROOMS ARE A FLAT RATE OF \$119.99 PER NIGHT. TAX INCLUDED. INCLUDES TWO FREE BREAKFAST BUFFET TICKETS EACH DAY IN THE HOTEL RESTAURANT. **CHECK-IN TIME 3 P.M.** MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH THE HOTEL DIRECTLY. 337 706 8199. Group Code is 49 & 9 Cajun Wreck. You must register no later than January 28th to enjoy the group rate.



DON'T FORGET: LA FEMMES WILL BE HAVING THEIR ANNUAL RAFFLE !!!!

All Ladies Meet and Greet sponsored by Promenade, Saturday 3:00 P.M.

NAME(S) _____ Voltaire/Cabane # _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NUMBER OF WRECK/BANQUET TICKETS REQUIRED @ \$90.00 each: _____ Will attend Carville tour? _____
 CHECK ENCLOSED \$ _____ TELEPHONE _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS _____

NOTE: No registration charge for PGAs being wrecked at the CAJUN WRECK. They must, however, make arrangements for their own rooms.

Program Ads Full Page \$100 Half Page \$50 Quarter Page \$25
 Send Payment to: Kenneth C. Lafleur, 1118 Katherine Drive, Opelousas LA 70570 Make Payment to "Cajun Wreck". You may Email ad to kmlafleur@earthlink.net or mail ad to 1118 Katherine Drive Opelousas LA 70570

64th Great Lakes Promenade
June 5, 6 & 7, 2025

Wisconsin-Michigan-Illinois-Indiana-Ohio-New York-Pennsylvania

Hosted by the Grande Voiture d' Illinois, Voyageurs & Dames

All attendees are responsible to make their own hotel reservations. The block of rooms will expire on May 16, 2025. All prices are plus tax. When reserving your room, say you are with the **40&8 Block of Rooms** and you are attending the **64th Great Lakes Promenade**. Any problems with your hotel reservations, contact Frank Beierdotter, 815-901-3834 or ffb66@juno.com.

Headquarters Host Hotel Site
Red Roof Inn and Suites, 1212 West Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, Illinois 60115
 815-758-8661, WWW.DEKALB.REDROOF.COM

Two levels with no elevator. If you are able to do steps, please reserve an upper level so that those that need a lower level will have a room available at the Headquarters Host Site. Lower Level \$94.99 and Upper Level \$89.99.

Overflow Hotel
Comfort Inn, 1314 W. Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, Illinois 60115, 815-748-7100, il323@stayatchoice.com
 \$109.00 and there is an elevator. About .1 miles west of Host Hotel Site.

Registration Form

Anticipated arrival day: _____ Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Grande: _____ Voiture# & Name: _____

Guest Name: _____ Phone: _____ Title: _____

Registration (\$60.00) per person includes Host Site Hospitality Room and Banquet.

Registrations: # _____ Times (\$60.00) Equals \$ _____ Check# _____

All checks payable to: Voiture 207 – 64th GLP

Any Questions: Todd Latham

Mail to: Todd Latham, 115 Boulevard St., Sandwich, IL 60548 815-786-4095, lathamtodd@yahoo.com

Tours, events, banquet meal selection, program schedule, ad booklet will be available in early 2025.

Grande du Pennsylvania & Grande du Maryland invite you to attend the

106th Promenade & 62nd Rendezvous Nationale
Gettysburg, PA
September 23-27, 2025
Explore Civil War History in Gettysburg

Date form completed: _____




PLEASE SUBMIT SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH REGISTRANT

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____

Address _____

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 _____ CV2 _____

BILLING ADDRESS: MAIL ZIP CODE _____

BILLING ADDRESS: _____

BILLING ZIP CODE _____

Quantity	Description	Amount
☐	Voyageur's Registration @ \$30.00 (NON-REFUNDABLE)	\$ _____
☐	Voyageur's Late Reg. Fee (AFTER 8/1/25) @ \$10	\$ _____
☐	Grande Voiture _____ Voltaire Locals _____	\$ _____
☐	Dame's Registration @ \$25.00	\$ _____
☐	Grande Cabane _____ Cabane Locals _____	\$ _____
☐	La President Luncheon (9/25/25) @ \$45.00	\$ _____
☐	Early Bird (9/23/25) Tickets @ \$30.00	\$ _____
☐	Banquet (9/27/25) Tickets @ \$45.00 each	\$ _____

Select one meal for each attendee:
 Lodging Breakfast ☐ Dinner ☐

Other Payments: Tips _____

TOTAL \$ _____

THE EISENHOWER (H&C) AND ASPIRE HOTELS ARE FOR BOTH VOYAGEURS & DAMES.
 ALL VOYAGEURS & DAMES WILL BE EXPECTED TO MAKE THEIR RESERVATION WITH THE HOTEL DIRECTLY.
 RESERVATION LINKS:
 EISENHOWER (H&C) HOTEL: <https://bit.ly/3Tn7238>
 ASPIRE HOTEL: <https://bit.ly/3MnW7>
 OR YOU CAN CALL 1-717-594-8121

MAKE SURE TO LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE THERE FOR PROMENADE & 62nd RENDEZVOUS NATIONALE

NOTE: Rates ONLY available through Promenade Nationale Corporation

Mail form and payment to:
 Voiture Nationale
 1610 Hawthorne Drive
 Plainfield, IN 46168
 Or Email to voltaire@fortyandeight.org

HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY AUGUST 31, 2025

Additional forms are online at www.fortyandeight.org

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

Submit by Email

Grande Du Oregon



Members from Voiture 316 Grande du Oregon along with the City of North Bend and the North Bend Visitors Center held the 75th Anniversary for the Oregon Merci Boxcar on July 13, 2024 at the Simpson Park location of the Boxcar. In attendance was the Mayor of North Bend Jessica Engelke, Visitor Center Manager Stephanie Wilson, Grande Chef de Gare Dan Evers, Nationale Sous Directeur Nurses Training Kevin Owens and Locale Chef de Gare Ralph Rhea who was the master of Ceremonies.

The event was in coordination with the North Bend July Jubilee. We were honored also to have the North Bend July Jubilee Court also in attendance. The event was an overwhelming success with over fifty people in attendance. Following the flag ceremony presented by the American Legion Bay Area Post 34 Honor Guard a presentation given by Chef de Gare Ralph Rhea on the history of the Boxcar followed by remarks by the Mayor of North Bend. The Boxcar will be making a move to its new location by the spring of 2025 to the new visitors in North Bend, which should highlight the Boxcar even better. We thank the City of North Bend for all its support since the Boxcar has arrived and what they do for Veterans.

Picture Left to Right: Mayor of North Bend Jessica Engelke,
 Kevin Owens Nationale Sous Directeur Nurses Training NE, V316
 Ralph Rhea Chef de Gare Locale V316 Grande du Oregon
 North Bend Visitor Center Manager Stephanie Wilson



54th Joint Carolina's Promenade & Wreck

Brought to you by: Grande du NC - Locale / Cabane 982
Wrecking Crew

January 17th - 19th, 2025 - Winston-Salem, NC

All events will be held at A. L. Post 55 or Host Hotel directly across the street from one another. Transportation provided to and from as well as to local shops, attractions, and restaurants. Old Salem Tour and Dame Lunch for Saturday hosted by Cabane 982.

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express, 110 Miller Street, W-5 (across the street from A. L. Post 55). Room Rate: \$94.00. Complimentary internet, parking and breakfast. PH (336) 721-0220 / jcarroll@holidayinn.com. Check in: 3pm / Out 11am.

***Hotel deadline for special "Joint Carolina's" room rate is December 20, 2024**

Registration: \$60.00 per Voyageur / Dame / Guest. \$65.00 per P.G. - includes Hospitality Room, Lapri pin, Banquet, Dames Excursion, 3 - Tickets to Silent Raffle Choices. **NOTE:** One form per Voyageur & Guest or Dame & Guest or P.G. & Guest.

(Circle one) Voyageur / Dame / P.G.: _____ PG Name (if applicable): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Vulture / Cabane #: _____ Title: _____

Guest name: _____

Sponsor (if applicable): _____ Grande / Vulture #: _____ Title: _____

Program Supporter Names
(\$5.00ea.) _____

Booster Names (\$3.00ea.) _____

Voyageur / Dame / Guest Registration (\$60.00) x _____ PG to be wrecked (\$65.00) x _____

Ad Full Page (\$60.00) x _____ Ad Half Page (\$30.00) x _____ Ad Business Card (\$15.00) x _____

Supporter (\$5.00) x _____ Booster (\$3.00) x _____ Total \$ _____

Checks made payable to Vulture 982. Mail Completed form to Vulture 982, 111 Miller St. Winston Salem, NC 27103

E-mail questions / Program Ads / Registrations to monday@vulture982.com

Friday January 17th - Registration at Hotel Noon - 5pm. PG's report to Hotel at noon. Kangaroo court at Post 7pm. Attitude adjustment and Entertainment at 8pm.

Saturday January 18th - PG's Report to Post Flagpole at 8am. Grande Cheminot at 9am. 1st and 2nd Degree at 10am. Lunch noon. 3rd degree at 2pm. Happy hour at 5pm. Banquet at 6pm and live entertainment at 8pm.

Contact: Mike Stokien / Chef de Gare 982 / mikestokien@vulture982.com - Plan Backs / Machine Programmer 982 / planbacks@vulture982.com



HOMECOMING

Paul J. Emmert, Sr.

Chef de Chemin de Fer



Best Western Plus Genetti Hotel & Conference Center
March 20-23, 2025
77 East Market Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL AT 570-828-6152 BY FEBRUARY 21, 2025.
MENTION "CHEF DE CHEMIN DE FER HOMECOMING" FOR THE \$99.00 RATE (+TAX) SINGLE OR DOUBLE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	PROGRAM BOOK ADS	DINNER
Thursday, March 20, 2025 3-6 PM Registration 3-11 PM Hospitality Room Friday, March 21, 2025 12-6 PM Registration 12-11 PM Hospitality Room Saturday, March 22, 2025 12-5 PM Hospitality Room 11-4 PM "Yueling Tour" 6 PM Social Hour (Cash Bar) 7 PM Banquet (Formal) <i>Hospitality Room Reopens after Banquet</i>	BOOSTERS / FRIENDS \$2.00 <i>(Mr. & Mrs. is \$4.00)</i> PLEASE INCLUDE COPY OF AD WITH REGISTRATION PLEASE EMAIL AD COPY TO: CBuF2025@gmail.com	CHICKEN MARSALA or ROAST BEEF WITH GRavy <i>Served with Chef's Choice of Starch and Vegetable, Rolls and Butter, Ice Water, Iced Tea, and Coffee</i>

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Booster Name: _____

Program Ad: Full Page _____ 1/2 Page _____ 1/4 Page _____ Boosters _____ \$ _____

Banquet Tickets: Chicken Marsala _____ Roast Beef _____ Tickets x \$50.00 = \$ _____

Yueling Tour (Yes/No)? _____ # of Tickets? _____ Tickets x \$25.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

**Yueling tour is tentative, depending on number of attendees

Make check payable to: Paul J. Emmert
Mail registration and check to:
Paul J. Emmert, Sr.
 545 Moores Branch Circle
 Westminster, MD 21158

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION AND ADS:
MARCH 1, 2025



Save the Date

Homecoming For

CINDY HICKEY



April 3-5, 2025
Millennium Durham
2800 Campus Walk Avenue
Durham, NC 27705
(919) 383 - 8575



77th Southland's Dixie Promenade 2025

April 24 - 26, 2025

PLEASE PRINT

REGISTRATION BADGES WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL EVENTS

Name Last: _____ First: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Vulture Locale #: _____ Cabane #: _____ dx: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

National/Grand Office held: _____

REGISTRATION Due before 6/4/2025

Includes Friday Beer Bash, Hospitality Room, and Banquet, & Pin: One at \$ 70.00 _____

Banquet choice: Roast Beef _____ Smoked Turkey _____

Early Bird Party Thursday Night _____ cost at \$30.00 _____

TOTAL _____

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: MAILED BY MARCH 15, 2025

TO BE MADE DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL:

Glenstone Lodge 504 Waterloo Main Trail, Gettysburg, TN 37738

Phone Numbers: (843) 436-9261 Fax: (843) 436-9021 Rates 129.00 tax

Mention Southland's Dixie for special room rate

MAIL REGISTRATION & AD Information to: Vulture 735 40 & B Attn: SL Dixie

make checks payable to same P.O. Box 2153
Cleveland, TN 37320-2153

P.O.C. 423 716 3370 leave message Cox 423 364 9119 40.8@vulture735@gmail.com

AD BOOK **AD Dead line March 1, 2025** List Boosters / In memory of

\$2.00 each name list on back of registration form

Full Page 8x11 color \$80.00 Half Page 8x5.5 color \$45.00 Quarter Page color \$25.00

Email copy to: graxphoto@yahoo.com Subject: SL Dixie Ad