



## Communiqué



# La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux

## Grande Voiture du Missouri

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July 2022 - Grand Chef de Gare Hallie Williams

L'Editeur Robert C. Emery

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Greetings Voyageurs,

It is an honor and privilege to serve as Grand Chef de Gare Grande du Missouri. Your friendship and support will be greatly appreciated.

As you know, membership is a must to keep our Voiture solid. We may not talk about the 40//8 much, but we are doing great things. We have a lot of work that has to be done.

Alone we can do little, but together we can do so much. Keep up the good work. If possible, let's stop our membership from cascading downward. have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Remember to RECRUIT, RECLAIM, RETAIN.

Hallie Williams,

Grand Chef de Gare du Missouri

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### Sous Grand Correspondants Notes

Another year is upon us and it is time to hear from our new dircteurs. The articles for the next newsletter will be due by July 31st 2019. Ritual, Carville Star, and Child Welfare

GRAND CHEMINOT, JUNE 25, 2022

Holiday Inn St. Louis Airport West Earth City Hotel, St. Louis County, Missouri

With a rap of the gavel, Grand Chef de Train Hallie Williams, who was acting for Grand Chef de Gare AJ Noonan who could not attend due to medical reasons, opened the Grand Cheminot at 1:00 PM with a salute to the Flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a prayer by Acting Grand Aumonier Ted McCart.

Roll call of officers showed some were there. Roll call of Grand Chefs de Gare Passe showed that thirteen answered. Roll call of Grand Cheminots showed that there was a quorum. Many Voyageurs don't know how to answer roll call so they paid a fine. Absent was Voitures 38, 333, 966, 1402, and 1403.

Grand Avocat Rich Heigert said we will use the Grande Constitution and the Voiture Nationale Constitution and then Roberts Rules of Order. Rich offered such a notion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Johnson and passed.

Notion offered by Rich Heigert and seconded by Kevin Johnson, that the Grand Fall Cheminot minutes are accepted as printed and sent out...passed.

Grand Correspondant Terry Lanning said he sent out a sheet to sign up if you are going to Promenade Nationale. Terry announced that Carol Wilson had passed away and her funeral will be on June 29, 2022, see handout for more information. Terry received a flyer for candidates for Chef de Chemin de Fer, that being Jim Vissers from Wisconsin and Frank Kronen from Ohio. Received a thank you letter from the Special Olympics for our donation. Received a letter about taking out ads for the Promenade Nationale ad book.

Grand Correspondant Terry Lanning read resolutions for Hallie Williams for Grand Chef de Gare and Mike Scruby for Grand Chef de Train, Ron Leverenz for Grand Commissaire Intendant, Theodore McCart for Grand Aumonier, and Terry Lanning for Grand Correspondant.

Commissaire Intendant, Mike Scruby, discussed the finance report. There was \$360 in fines for the last year that have not been paid out.

Grand Chef de Train Hallie Williams said we are at 94%. He called on the Sous Chef de Trains to report on their Voitures, to which Forrest Johnson stated his Voitures were 99% and 3 were over 100%. Harry Barnes said his Voitures were 95% and two were at 100%. The Grand has a total membership of 667, down 44 from last year.

Cheminot Nationale Janice Hartley said we had a successful 102<sup>nd</sup> Promenade Nationale. The 103<sup>rd</sup> will be in Green Bay Wisconsin.

The highlights of the Grand Cheminot reports are: Voiture 448 had a Christmas Party and Easter Party at Marygrove kids home, one of the Marygrove kids is now working for CBS news and one got married last week; Voiture 460 placed flags on veterans graves for Memorial Day, participated in Flag Day Ceremony, sponsored a baseball team, membership at 100%, helped a kid that was in an accident; Voiture 1321 supported one boy to Boys State, volunteers at the VA, helped a family that had a fire, have 4 nurses in training, nominated Law Officer of the Year Zack Faulkner and City of the Year Perryville and each were selected by the Grande, are at 100%; Voiture 1541 is over the top in membership at 103%, paid for 55 Box Car cards and 10 pins, graduated 2 Nurses in training and currently have 3 Nurses in training, had Christmas Party on December 15<sup>th</sup> with Grand Chef Noonan attending, sponsored 2 rounds at \$100 each for St. Charles American Legion Baseball Program, Locale VAVS Directeur Don Newman was selected as St. Charles County Veteran of the Year, on March 5<sup>TH</sup> had Night at the Races and had a lot of support, attended the St. Charles County Memorial Day Ceremony, installation will be August 24 at Wentzville, Christmas party tentatively on December 14, 2022 at Wentzville Legion Post.

Acting Grand Historien Allen Schultz said he received one Voiture History book from Voiture 1541 and they won 1<sup>st</sup> place.

Grand Directeur Child Welfare Terry McDonald could not be there so Terry Lanning gave his report. Terry received 3 reports. Reports show there was expended \$256,000 to benefit 860 children. 1<sup>st</sup> place went to 448, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to 1321 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to 1541.

Grand Directeur Voiture Activities Ken Nettesheim could not be here so Frank Angelo gave his report. Frank presented awards 1<sup>st</sup> place went to 1321, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to 1379 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to 460.

Grand Publiciste David Bexten gave out his reports. 1<sup>st</sup> place went to 1292, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to 1321 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to 1541.

Acting Grand Aumonier Ted McCart said to let him know if any Voitures have any deceased for the Memorial Ceremony.

Grand Drapeau East CJ New said he reworked the flags and bought a new pole and eagle and redid the bases.

Grand Drapeau East David Voyles said we need a ball or spear on the Grande flag. Ron will donate one.

Grand Publiciste David Bexten said to look at the Voiture Nationale web site for more details on Publiciste. He then presented awards to 1<sup>st</sup> place went to 448, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to 1321 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to 1541.

Grand Directeur Americanism Robert Emery Calvin read Bob's report. There were 6 reports turned in. 1<sup>st</sup> place went to 448, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to 1321 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to 1541. There was a total of \$545,141 cash and services. If anyone wants 2023 Americanism pins then let Bob know.

Grand Directeur Carville Star Ron Leverenz said he received 6 reports. 1<sup>st</sup> place went to 760, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to 448 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to 1379.

Grand Directeur POW/MIA Harry Barnes Jr. – said 3 reports were received. 1<sup>st</sup> place went to 1321, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to 460 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to 1379.

Grand Directeur Ritual Larry Elliott – Kevin gave Larry's report. Received 4 reports. 1<sup>st</sup> place went to 1321, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to 1541 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to 448.

Grand Directeur Special Awards Ben Sargent - He received two reports. He had received one Law & Order nomination for Zack Faulkner and was selected as the Grande Law & Order winner and City of the Year Perryville who was selected as City of the Year. 1<sup>st</sup> place went to 1321, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to 333 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to 460.

Grand VAVS Chairman Chip Berkley gave the following awards 1<sup>st</sup> place went to 1541, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to 448 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to 1321.

Sous Grand VAVS Chairman Gary Puck said Kansas City has new labs and compassion care facility. Don Newman said he is back volunteering at the VA and taking supplies down and doing BBQ's

Grand Directeur Youth Sports Ann Puck said she received 5 reports for a total of \$185,600. 1<sup>st</sup> place went to 448, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to 460 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to 1321.

Grand Sous Correspondant Robert Emery Terry gave Robert's report. The Grand Chef and any other articles are due to Robert by the end of the month. If anyone else has anything to put in the Grande Newsletter then send it to Robert. If a voyageur wants the newsletter then send Robert their email address and he will email the newsletter to them. The newsletters go out the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. If a voyageur changes their email address then let Robert and Terry Lanning know.

Time and Place Committee Kevin Johnson said the Grand Commissaire Intendant Mike Scruby and Grand Chef de Gare Passe Frank Angelo visited the Oasis hotel and convention center in Springfield Missouri to talk with them about upcoming events in 2023. After talking with the management there, they came up with some projected dates and a proposed contract. That information was emailed to me, and I forwarded to Dave, and Janice. Having held so many events at the Oasis we didn't feel the need to make a visit ourselves. After looking over everything we concluded that the dates didn't interfere with anything, and the hotel was offering everything required by the Grand.

Below are listed the upcoming events with Time and Place and any information we have available at this time.

103rd Promenade Nationale

Time: September 13 – 17, 2022

Place: Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, Green Bay, WI

Rate: \$119 (plus tax) per night Single Occupancy, \$129 DBL, \$139 Triple

Fall Grande Cheminot & Grand Chef de Gare's Homecoming

Time: September 30 – October 2, 2022

Place: Holiday Inn, Earth City, MO.

Rate: \$109 (plus tax) per night.

Grande Cheminot & Spring Wreck

Time: March 10 – 12, 2023

Place: Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield, MO.

Rate: \$104 (plus tax) per night.

## Grande Cheminot & Promenade

Time: June 30 – July 2, 2023

Place: Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield, MO.

Rate: \$104 (plus tax) per night.

## Grande Cheminot & Grand Chef de Gare's Homecoming

Time: October 13 – 15, 2023

Place: Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield, MO.

Rate: \$104 (plus tax) per night.

Distinguished Voyageur Ralph Turner said had one nomination and will present it at the Fall Homecoming.

Promenade Nationale Representative Rich Heigert thanked everyone for their help. Rich said we should host another Promenade Nationale – no!

Old Business – Terry Lanning said since the Spring Cheminot was cancelled because of the elevators at the hotel breaking down Terry sent out an email to the Grande Executive Committee to approve the Grand Chefs nomination to chair the Constitution Bob Phillips, Nominations Kevin Jonson, Credential Hallie Williams, Resolutions David Bexten and Audit Committee Chairman David Voyles with Frank Angelo and Ron Leverenz. The Grande Executive Committee approved these appointments. Motion to approve the Grande Executive Committees actions passed.

New Business – none

Good of the Grande Voiture –Ralph said there was a 102<sup>nd</sup> Promenade Nationale report on the table.

Further business – Frank said there were still 36 days left in this membership year so go ahead and get membership in.

Grand Chef de Train Hallie Williams closed the Grand Cheminot at 2:38 PM.

Submitted by, Terry L. Lanning, Grand Correspondant

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### HIS IS HALLOWED GROUND

#### Why YOU DON'T WALK OR REACH BETWEEN THE COLORS

Between the flags that proudly fly

Let no one dare to stand

For here our fallen comrades lie,

We call it Hallowed Ground.

A symbol, yes, but mark it well;

Here let us ever humbly pause

In Memory of the ones who fell In fighting for our sacred cause.

On sea or land these buddies died.

Some lie beneath a foreign sod In graves caressed by winds and tide, In spots unknown to all but God. And so this place is Hallowed Ground.

And it shall be forever blessed, As though it were a grassy mound Beneath which gallant heroes rest Be ever watchful, Voyageur. Of those two flags which signify

That we should guard this spot with care Where our departed comrades lie. And, if a man or woman should dare to tread This spot where lie our gallant brave, They desecrate those noble dead As tho they walked upon their grave.

## GRAND PROMENADE, June 26, 2022

Holiday Inn St. Louis Airport West Earth City Hotel, St. Louis County, Missouri

With a rap of the gavel, Grand Chef de Train Hallie Williams, who was acting for Grand Chef de Gare AJ Noonan who could not attend due to medical reasons, opened the Grand Promenade sharply at 9:00 AM with a salute to the Flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a much needed prayer by Grand Aumonier Rose Noonan.

Roll call of officers showed more absent than excused and the rest were sleeping. Roll call of Grand Chefs de Gare Passe showed 12 answering. Roll call of Grand Cheminots showed there was a quorum. Absent was Voitures 38, 333, 966, 1402, and 1403.

Grand Avocat Rich Heigert said we will use the Grande and Voiture Nationale's Constitution and then Roberts Rules of Order.

Notion offered by Kevin Johnson, seconded by Ed Jones, that the minutes of the July 24, 2021 Grande Promenade be accepted as printed and sent out...passed.

Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Mike Worrel was called to say a few words. He said he gave them last night at the banquet.

Grand Chef de Train Hallie Williams called on the Grande Promenade Committees starting with the Audit Committee chaired by David Voyles with the help of Ralph Angelo. Also present were Grand Commissaire Intendant Mike Scruby and Grand Correspondant Terry Lanning. David stated the audit took place on June 25, 2022 at the Marquette room of the Holiday Inn Earth City at 9:00 AM. The financial records were matched with the bank statements. The Grande began the year with \$2,699.73 and had deposits totaling \$12,422.41. Disbursements totaled \$10,972.07 leaving a final balance of \$4,150.07. The Grande Voiture has two one year CD's, #721 for \$3,000 due 9/23/2022 at .3% and #722 for \$3,000 due 9/20/2022 at .3%. The Stifel-Nicolaus investment account is \$9,000. There were total assets for the year of \$19,150.07. The Audit Committee recommends the Grande keep this investment another year. The Audit Committee wants to thank the Commissaire Intendant Mike Scruby for his great bookkeeping. Also, wants to thank Terry Lanning and Frank Angelo for helping him with the audit. David offered a notion that this report and the financial report from yesterday be accepted, seconded by Janice...passed.

Grand Chef de Train Hallie Williams called on the Resolutions Committee chaired by David Bexten. David reported that he opened the committee at 9:30 AM in the hospitality room. There were 4 members present. David stated he had resolutions for Hallie Williams for Grand Chef de Gare, Mike Scruby for Grand Chef de Train, Ron Leverenz for Grand Commissaire Intendant, Ted McCart for Grand Aumonier and Terry L. Lanning for Grand Correspondant. Committee recommended these be approved and passed on to the Nomination Committee for action. Notion to accept report by David Bexten and seconded by Janice Hartley, passed.

Grand Chef de Train Hallie Williams was Chairman of the Credentials Committee. He said the Credential Committee met Saturday. He gave the voting strength for each Voiture plus Grand Chefs de Gare Passe present for a total of 53 votes. Hallie offered a notion, seconded by Kevin Johnson, that the report be accepted as given...passed.

Grand Chef de Train Hallie Williams called on the Constitution Committee chaired by Robert Phillips. Committee met Saturday at 9:17 AM with 6 voyageurs present. No new business was brought forward. Locale Constitutions were discussed as for as their status of approval per Grande Avocat Rich Heigert. Voitures 1379 and 292 are in the process of being approved. Approximately half of all Voitures have been approved. Robert offered a notion to accept his report, seconded by Harry Barnes...passed.

New Business – Grand Chef de Train Hallie Williams called on the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Kevin Johnson. Kevin reported that the meeting was held at the Holiday Inn St. Louis Airport West Earth City on June 25, 2022 at 9:50am.

Five resolutions were given to the committee and made available for those present at the meeting to read. After a very short discussion in was agreed the following recommendations would be presented to the Grand Promenade. Kevin read the recommendation of the Committee for elective officers for 2022-2023

ELECTIVE OFFICERS	NAME	VOITURE
Grand Chef de Gare	Hallie Williams	448
Grand Chef de Train	Mike Scruby	1379
Grand Commissaire Intendant	Ron Leverenz	760

Grand Correspondant	Terry Lanning	448
Cheminot Nationale	Frank Angelo	460
Alternate Cheminot Nationale	AJ Noonan	460
Voitures (460-760-1321) Sous Grand Chef de Train	Rose Noonan	460
Voitures (38-448-966-1541) *	CJ New	1541
Sous Grand Chef de Train		
Voitures (3-130-1379-1402) *	Robert Emery	1379
Sous Grand Chef de Train		
Voitures (292-333-1292-1403) Sous Grand Chef de Train	Ernie Parker	333
Grand Medicin *	Tommy Thomas	460
Grand Garde de la Porte *	Forrest Johnson	1541
Grand Historien	Allen Schultz	1541
Grand Avocat	Richard A. Heigert	1321
Sous Grand Avocat	David N. Voyles	130
Grand Directeur Child Welfare	Bowman McArthur	460
Grand Directeur Voiture Activities *	AJ Noonan	460
Grand Directeur Nurses Training	Jeremy Lachut	460
Grand Aumonier	Theadore McCart	1321
Grand Drapeau East *	Bob Evenson	1541
Grand Drapeau West *	Calvin Bumgarner	1379
Grand Lampiste	Ron Turner	760
Grand Cheminot-at-Large	Ralph Turner	460
Grand Cheminot-at-Large	Kevin Johnson	460
Grand Cheminot-at-Large	Arthur L. Wilson	448
Grand Cheminot-at-Large	Clarence Buckley	760
Grand Cheminot-at-Large	Robert Phillips	1541

Hallie Williams was elected by acclamation as Grand Chef de Gare. Mike Scruby was elected by acclamation as Grand Chef de Train. Ron Leverenz was elected by acclamation as Grand Commissaire Intendant. Terry Lanning was elected by acclamation as Grand Correspondant. Motion offered by Rich Heigert, seconded by Kevin Johnson, that the balance of the officers be elected by acclamation...passed.

Kevin read the appointed officers with permission by Grand Chef de Gare Elect, Hallie Williams, which are:

APPOINTED OFFICERS	NAME	VOITURE
Sous Grand Correspondant	Robert Emery	1379
Sous Grand Correspondant	AJ Noonan	460
Grand Publiciste	David Bexten	1292
Grand Organizer	Thomas (Chip) Berkley	292
Sous Grand Organizer	David Bexten	1292
Sous Grand Organizer	David Voyles	130
Grand Conducteur	Frank Angelo	460
Sous Grand Conducteur	Benjamin Sargent	460
Sous Grand Conducteur	Dan Levasseur	1292
Sous Grand Conducteur	C. J. New	1541
Sous Grand Conducteur	Mark Hoerneschmeyer	1541
Grand Directeur Americanism	Robert Emery	1379
Sous Grand Directeur Americanism	Calvin Bumgarner	1379

Grand Directeur Box Car	Shiran Jackson	460
Grand Directeur Carville Star	Forrest Johnson	1541
Grand Directeur POW/MIA	Harry T. Barnes Jr.	1321
Sous Grand Directeur POW/MIA	John Kramer	1321
Grand Directeur Ritual	Duane Declue	1321
Grand Directeur Special Awards	Benjamin Sargent	460
Grand Directeur VAVS	Thomas (Chip) Berkley	292
Sous Grand Directeur VAVS	Don Newman II	1541
Sous Grand Directeur VAVS	Gary Puck	1379
Sous Grand Directeur VAVS	Ann Puck	1379
Sous Grand Directeur VAVS	Dennis Ecker	1321
Sous Grand Directeur VAVS	Samuel Mercer	1321
Grand Directeur Youth Sports	Ann Puck	1379
Executive Committee "Advisory" & Protocol	Richard A. Heigert	1321
Time & Place Committee	Janice Hartley	1541
	David Bexten	1292
(chair)	Kevin Johnson	460
Distinguished Voyageur Chairman	Calvin Bumgarner (1)	1379
	Terry L. Lanning (1)	448
	Janice Hartley (3)	1541
	Robert W. Phillips (3)	1541
	Ralph Turner (2)	460
	David Bexten (2)	1292
Distinguished Guest Committee	Robert Phillips	1541
	Terry L. Lanning	448
	Richard A. Heigert	1321
MAVO	Tom Goodin – Legislative Representative	1292
	Thomas (Chip) Berkley– Delegate at Large	292
Grand Chef de Gare	Hallie Williams -Delegate	448
Grand Chef de Train	Mike Scruby - Delegate	1379
Grand Correspondant	Terry Lanning - Delegate	448
Aide de Camp	Thomas (Chip) Berkley	292

Notion offered by Kevin Johnson, seconded by Rich Heigert, that the appointments by the Grand Chef de Gare Elect, Hallie Williams, be approved as read...passed.

Notion offered by Kevin Johnson, 2nd by Bob Phillips, that the delegates to the 2022 Promenade Nationale at Green Bay, Wisconsin be Kevin Johnson, AJ Noonan, Janice Hartley, Hallie Williams, and Frank Angelo. The Alternates will be Calvin Bumgarner, Rose Noonan, Rich Heigert, David Voyles, and Mike Scruby. AJ Noonan being the Chairman of the delegation with the right of appointment and Rose Noonan being the Secretary of the delegation...passed.

Grand Chef de Train Hallie Williams relieved the members of the Grande Promenade Committees.

Newly elected Hallie Williams thanked everyone for electing him. He is honored and glad to be part of the 40/8.

The Promenade was recessed at 9:59 AM to let the families and friends in for the Memorial Service and installation of officers.

The Grande Promenade came back to order at 10:15 AM. Grand Chef de Train Hallie Williams turned the podium over to Acting Aumonier Ted McCart. He was assisted by Kevin Johnson and Grand Correspondant Terry Lanning for the Memorial Service.

Grand Chef de Train Hallie Williams asked that the installing officer Passe Grand Chef Kevin Johnson come to the podium. Kevin installed the newly elected Grand Chef de Gare, Hallie Williams, first. Afterwards Kevin installed the rest of the elected and appointed officers.

Installing Officer, Kevin Johnson, gave the gavel of authority to the new Grand Chef de Gare Hallie Williams.

At this time, the families and friends were asked to leave so that we may proceed in closing the Grande Promenade.

Kevin Johnson said at the next Grande function the Buzzard and Bull should have a white chapeau. Rich Heigert offered a notion that the unspent fine money of \$360 plus the Grande Promenade fine money be sent to Voiture Nationale for the Blue Shield Program. Seconded by Harry and passed.

The new Grande Chef de Gare Hallie Williams closed the Grand Promenade in the proper manner at 10:55 AM.

Submitted by  
Terry L. Lanning  
Grand Correspondant

## Box Car Association

In 1947, American newspaper columnist Drew Pearson was so moved by the conditions in war torn Europe that he called on Americans for donations of food, clothing, medical and other supplies to aid the plights of France and Italy. He proposed a plan for a train to cross America collecting car loads of donated supplies as it went.

The "Friendship Train", as it was called, left Los Angeles on November 7, 1947 with eight empty boxcars. The response from across America was overwhelming and eleven days later on November 18, 1947 the "Friendship Train" arrived in New York with some 700 Box Cars loaded with donated goods worth \$40 million. The supplies were then shipped to the region.

As the aid began to pour in, a French veteran of WW I and railroad worker named Andre' Picard was so grateful for America's outpouring of generosity that he formulated a response and joined with the French Veterans Association to reply with a 49 car "Merci Train" of WWI era boxcars, each filled with mementos from the French people and sent to America.

The boxcars arrived in New York Harbor February 3, 1949 and as the "Gratitude Train", as came to be called in America, crossed the Nation one boxcar with it's contents was donated to each of the 48 States with one shared by the District of Columbia and the territory of Hawaii.

Today these "Box Cars" stand in their respective States as a testament to these two incredible displays of goodwill and have evolved through the efforts of "La Societe de 40 and 8" and the National Boxcar Association to annually raise funding to support the many charitable programs of the 40/8 in support of our communities across this great Nation.

The National Box Car Association was founded in 1965 as an affiliate of "La Societe' de Forty & Eight" with the primary purpose of preserving the Box Car as the symbol of the Forty & Eight. Over time Locomotives were added to the symbolic rolling stock of the NBCA since they were connected and needed to haul the Box Cars.

The National Box Car Association set goals of making contributions to Hospitals, Children's Homes and Orphanages. Expanding it's efforts the NBCA supports special projects at the annual Promenade Nationale (National Convention). A party for special children is held in the host city where the children and their escorts are treated to lunch, train rides on visiting Locomotives, and entertainment by the NBCA HOBO Clowns and bands, etc.

Also a monetary donation is made to the host city's local VAVS Hospital or Clinic. Other donations go to the National Boland Nurses Training Trust Fund, the Charles Ardery Child Welfare Trust Fund and other programs requiring assistance, such as the National 40&8 Membership Committee, 40&8 Magazine, Law Officer of the Year program, and many others. All funding raised by the NBCA is distributed in the same year it is raised.

Funding comes through the sales of Box Car Pins, Crew Cards, and Associate Cards. Crew cards are sold only to Voyageurs Militaire or members of the 40&8 while Pins and Associate cards can be sold to anyone wishing to make a donation for the NBCA.

All Voiture Locales can order National Box Car Pins, Crew Membership Cards, and Associate Member Cards from the National Secretaire/Treasurer on consignment or they can be paid for when ordered. Any orders of the Commemorative Coin Series must be paid for before shipping. The success of the NBCA is the result of the overwhelming support of the Voyageurs Militaire (members) of "La Societe' de 40&8".





## La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux Voiture Nationale



Paul J. Emmert, Sr.  
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June 17, 2022

Greetings from Nationale!

Fellow Voyageurs, the main theme of this letter will not be the normal membership numbers and statistics, rather the main theme for this letter is going to be La Société, and what it has meant to me, my family, my life, and where La Société sits moving into the future.

Let me start by saying that prior to my joining the 40&8, my career was on an upward trajectory in the American Legion. I had been a two-term Post Commander, A DEC member, and was on my way to County and District commands. But I felt empty in what I was doing, and it was like I was just going through the motions, without passion. Then a Legionnaire wearing a 40&8 polo asked if he could take me aside and talk to me. I said, "Sure." And that was the beginning of a new chapter in my life.

I think back to that day I was invited to join La Société, and I can say, it was the definite highlight of my post-military career. I had been invited to join an exclusive organization with programs I wholeheartedly believe in, and an organization that also claimed the likes of "Black Jack" Pershing as alumni. "Wow", I thought! That is some seriously storied company to be sharing membership with. From that moment on, I committed that I would dedicate as much of myself to the organization as possible. Right from the start, I volunteered (or involuntarily volunteered... haha) for anything that was asked of me. My ambition and willingness to do anything and everything paid dividends, as I was able to meet likeminded people and compare our stories and love for La Société, and strategies moving forward.

Soon thereafter, my family, including my wife and adult children, saw a change in me; more engaged with my neighborhood, more aware of those in need, and showing a passion they had not seen before. I know it was due to La Société. It was what I needed, and it was at the right time.

Fast forward a few years, with me being in a position to reach out to other Locales, and be able to talk about membership, the challenge of growing La Société, and my own personal experiences. Everyone seemed to have the same problem; either a breakdown in the ability to search for prospective Voyageurs, or on the other hand, no desire to do that critical activity.

I took it upon myself to commit that anytime I had the ability to engage with leadership at the Locale, Grande, or Nationale levels, that I would share with them my story, and how La Société invigorated me.

I know that there are many of you out there that probably have similar stories about your experiences in La Société, and those are some of the most valuable tools you have in being able to grow our organization. But it also takes passion.

Passion. That is a word that I conveyed in one of my first letters, about how that is a driving force behind almost everything I do related to La Société. We all either have, had, or are working on drawing on our passion where it relates to La Société. I think back to the second and third-hand stories I heard about the passion and pride that the founders of our organization had, knowing that they were on to something special, but I'm not sure if they imagined that we would now be looking at our 104<sup>th</sup> year.

Back in the early days of La Société, our organization grew year after year. In 1924, the first year for which I have found membership statistics, we had 27,235 Voyageurs in La Société, and by 1953, we were at 104,486 Voyageurs. Like all organizations, we had good years and we had bad years, but we had solid sustainment.

Fast-forward to 2022. Our strength is down to under 18,000, well below the number from 100 years prior. When I looked at these phenomena, I figured that I would research and see that there are currently less U.S. veterans than there were in 1924, but to my surprise, there aren't. Currently, there are 18.8 million U.S. veterans, most of which were honorably discharged. This is more than at any other time in our Nation's history. Those numbers don't lie. There is a massive untapped base from which to recruit.

What I would like, is for all of you to think about the person who talked to you, educated you about the 40&8, and ultimately invited you to join. They made an effort because they saw something in you that was different, special, or outstanding; basically, something that reflects the values of our organization.

Now, I'd like all of you to make the same effort, and take the same initiative that your sponsor did. Go out and find that "special person" or persons, who embody our organization's values. Talk to them. Invite them to join us in La Société.

I don't believe that La Société has to keep losing members year after year; I truly don't. Like I, and others have said before me, for every person who we lose for reasons ranging from loss of interest, or the Voyageur transitioning to Voiture Everlasting, we should be finding two new candidates to take their place.

I believe in our organization, and I believe in you. Now it is time for you to do the same. Who knows, the person you talk to about the 40&8 could be our generation's "Black Jack" Pershing. You won't know until you talk to them and find out.

As always, I want to thank you all for taking the time to read this letter, and if I can be of any assistance to you, please reach out to me.

For La Société,

Paul J. Emmert, Sr.  
Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer  
La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

Greetings,

In this capacity, speaking of how we need new members is not appropriate. We all know what has taken place over the last decade in terms of our decline in membership. To help solve that issue I have spoken to the Correspondant Nationale Terry Sims along with the Chef de Chemin de Fer Bill Simpson and Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Passe Frank Kronen. They have given me the go-ahead to send this letter to every Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer, Directeur and Sous Directeurs of Membership, and every Grand Correspondant in La Société. I will keep the tech talk to a minimum.

We would like to have you all push the attached flier out to every officer and member of our organization. Ask them to print and post this flier in as many places as they see fit. I will be posting it in Legions (mostly the ones we are not in), VFWs, Walmart community boards, restaurant cork boards, and any other place I see veterans go. I will carry copies in my truck and post them everywhere I can. I am asking you to encourage your officers and members to do the same.

If we all come together to push this exact flier, here is what it will do.

1. Most importantly it will show our logo to the population of veterans we are aiming to capture. Along the way it will bring people back who know our logo, but most importantly it will open people's eyes to who we are.
2. The Uncle Sam logo is a known membership logo, so the message to them will be clear. Most veterans can relate to what this logo is being used for. The flier lists several programs to capture the interest of someone who may feel passionate about one of these programs. This flier is not overloaded, as the purpose is to get them to scan the QR code and come to the website. The website will hold the bulk of the information compared to the flier.
3. The QR code being scanned will bring them directly to our website homepage. Most importantly it will allow them to fill out their contact information (I call this our lead card) so we can get a new lead and contact those who may be interested in joining. The immense value of this exact QR code is that we can see how many people are scanning it. This will tell us if it is working.
4. The join408.info is a web address for anyone that does not scan QR codes. It is just like a .com address. It is simple to remember and by them typing this in we will also be able to see how many people are coming to our website. The QR code and the join408.info address do the same thing, they bring them to our homepage. This does not get rid of our fortyandeight.org address. This address is still the same as it has always been.
5. The invitation to join that this flier is making does not abandon the need for a person to be nominated and it should not be confused that this will allow someone to come in without nomination. It simply invited interested veterans to seek us out and let us know of their interest. The flier still holds the critical information, that a nomination is required.

In closing, this QR code is the first introduction and in time we plan to use it in a lot more areas like; placing a QR code on program fliers that bring people back to that programs page on the website, on the back of business cards, etc. Successful membership means successful programs, and sometimes supporters of programs can help find members as well.

Please contact me with any questions at: [40and8.987@gmail.com](mailto:40and8.987@gmail.com) or cell: 505-227-4882.

For La Société,





The Most Elite  
Charitable  
Veterans Honor  
Society in America

Child Welfare

Nurses Training

Carville Star

Flags for 1st Graders

Youth Sports

POW/MIA

# WE WANT YOU



Scan this code or go to [join408.info](http://join408.info) today!!!

*Membership by nomination only for honorably separated veterans or active service members of the U.S. military.*

# GRANDE VOITURE DU MISSOURI

## GRANDE CHEF DE GARE HOMECOMING & CHEMINOT



September 30 & October 1, 2022  
Holiday Inn St. Louis Airport West Earth City  
3400 Rider Trail South  
St. Louis, MO 63045  
Phone: (314) 291-6800  
Room Rate is \$109.00 (plus tax) per night



For Standard King or Standard Double Queen Occupancy  
**Handicap rooms available**  
Make Hotel reservations directly with Holiday Inn by **September 9, 2022**  
**Mention "Forty & Eight" to receive room rate**

**Friday, September 30, 2022**  
Registration: 1500 until 1800  
Hospitality Room 1500 - ????

**Saturday, October 1, 2022**  
Registration 0900 – Noon  
Committee Meetings: 9:00 – 11:30 AM  
LUNCH 1130 – 1300 in Hospitality Room  
**Grande Cheminot 1300**  
Hospitality Room opens after Cheminot until 1700  
Grand Chef de Gare Passe' Social Hour – 1700 – 1800  
Social Hour 1800 – Cash Bar  
Banquet: 1900  
Hospitality Room: After Banquet – ??????

Check Out  
HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME  
**Deadline for registration and the banquet is September 24, 2022**

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To register for the Grande Cheminot, make Check payable to **Voiture 448**

Send to:

**Terry Lanning**  
2045 Granada Drive  
Florissant, MO 63033

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Voiture Number \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet/Person \$35.00 X No. Guests \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee \$10.00 (Voyageurs Only) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## 30-Jun-22

30-Jun-22						
	Voiture	2021	2022	2022	Sh/Ov	% of
		Year End	To-date	Quota	Quota	Quota
HEART OF AMERICA	3	39	34	39	-5	87.18%
SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS	38	59	56	59	-3	94.92%
JESSE JAMES	130	38	37	38	-1	97.37%
HEART OF MISSOURI	292	32	30	32	-2	93.75%
STATE FAIR	333	111	104	111	-7	93.69%
GATEWAY	448	67	67	67	0	100.00%
CENTRAL OZARK	460	59	59	59	0	100.00%
KICKAPOO	760	32	24	32	-8	75.00%
MARK TWAIN	966	3	3	3	0	100.00%
CAPITAL	1292	77	64	77	-13	83.12%
MINERAL AREA	1321	73	73	73	0	100.00%
NEUF COMPT	1379	37	38	37	1	102.70%
ATCHISON NODAWAY HOLT Counties	1402	19	12	19	-7	63.16%
LAKE OF THE OZARK	1403	12	12	12	0	100.00%
TWO RIVERS	1541	53	55	53	2	103.77%
Missouri Total		711	668	711	-43	93.95%