

*Communiqué*  
*La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Cheveaux*  
*Grande Voiture du Missouri*



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May-June 2008 - Grand Chef de Gare Leslie (Grant) Willis, Jr - L'Editeur Terry Lanning

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**The Grand Chef Sez**

At this writing I just got back from Central States and this year was more fun than we have had in many years. We even had a few voyageurs and dames that ended up in the pool during the salty dog party. The Truman Pilgrimage was once again a huge success and as usual no rain, which is amazing.

Year-end reports from all Voitures need to be turned in to the Directeurs as soon as possible. This is where we need to improve, our reporting, and get a 100% participation in reporting for the Grand this year, but the only way is for the Voitures to report on all committees. Here we are May 2008 and my year is about finished. This will be my final article as your Grand Chef de Gare. I have had so much help and guidance this past year and it is very much appreciated. My theme at the beginning of the year was to have fun and that I have accomplished. My hope is that everyone else had fun along the way. I have met many new friends and renewed old friendships in my travels. I have tried to visit as many places as I could and know I have missed some. I apologize for that, but those places I have visited, Shirley and myself were treated with great respect. The hospitality that was received throughout the state was very much

appreciated and I thank you all for that. I did lose some close friends this past year, Jerry Castulik, Bob Bunting, and Janet Buckley, I will miss these friends very much, but I know that they are with God and at peace.

I hope to see everyone in Wentzville at the Grand Promenade in June.

Let's all have fun this year  
I did, Did You

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**Sous Grand  
Correspondants Notes**

This will be the last newsletter until after the Grand Promenade.

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*Are You Going To Win!*

You don't have a chance to win the Grande raffle unless you send in your raffle tickets. Pass the word on to the other voyageurs. Send your money and ticket stubs to Gary Reno –  
1301 Robin Circle, Kearney, MO 64060  
Enclosed in this newsletter is a sheet of tickets. If have not sent them in, then fill them out and send them in.

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## UPCOMING DATES

- Grande Promenade June 27 – 29, 2008 at Wentzville, MO
- Voiture 1379 ChickNic Sept 6, 2008, 1:00 at Wallace State Park, Cameron, MO

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The Grande du Missouri web site is at: [grandedumissouri.com](http://grandedumissouri.com)

If anyone has anything they want to add or comments on the web site send it to Robert Emery at his e-mail address [remery18@comcast.net](mailto:remery18@comcast.net) and copy Terry Lanning at [t\\_lanning@charter.net](mailto:t_lanning@charter.net).

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Voiture 38 - Barbecue's  
Will be held at Ferguson's Pub,  
2925 Mt Pleasant St, 63111  
On the following Saturdays:  
Jun 7, 2008  
Jul 19, 2008  
Aug 9, 2008  
Sep 6, 2008

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**Locale Correspondants**  
When you send in the names, addresses, phone numbers of the new elected and appointed Voiture officers, please also provide their email address.

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Below is from the Voiture invoices received from Voiture Nationale. They all show a credit. A Voiture can use up the credit by applying their membership dues or ask Voiture Nationale to send a check. This will be put in the newsletter once a quarter and the invoices will not be mailed to the Voiture Correspondant unless otherwise requested.

Voiture 3	\$(111.53)
Voiture 38	\$(100.51)
Voiture 292	\$(97.85)
Voiture 293	\$(1.20)
Voiture 333	\$-0-
Voiture 447	\$(20.00)
Voiture 460	\$(288.50)

Voiture 520	\$(3.50)
Voiture 760	\$(19.69)
Voiture 1321	\$(19.00)
Voiture 1379	\$(31.50)
Voiture 1395	\$(45.00)
Voiture 1402	\$(21.50)
Voiture 1403	\$(68.00)
Voiture 1541	\$(3.64)

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Voiture Reports are due to the Grande Directeur's by June 15, 2008. Take a few minutes and fill out the reports. Voitures do more than they realize. Let's all get them in.

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Voitures don't forget that Legion Posts, Districts, 40/8 Voitures, and Auxiliary Units and similar nonprofit organizations that did not have to file an IRS 990 or 990EZ return because their gross receipts did not exceed \$25,000, will now have to file a return or file the annual electronic notice (called Form 990-N and is filed on the IRS web site [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)). The Form 990, 990EZ, or the annual electronic notice are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the fifth month after the close of your tax period. Most organizations tax periods end on December 31, so the return or electronic notice would be due on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Therefore the first annual electronic notice would be due on May 15, 2008, if your tax period ends on December 31, 2007.

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Letter from David R Rabius Correspondant National to Bob Spanogle National Adjutant of The American Legion, as a few of the Past Chef de Chemin de Fer's asked David Rabius to send.

April 08, 2008  
American Legion  
Attn: Bob Spanogle  
National Adjutant  
700 North Pennsylvania St  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear Bob:

With your patience and help, we hope to end a 48 year old misconception within our ranks that hamstring us and has been an ongoing thorn in the Legion's side.

The e-mail sent to Dean Thompson, from Jack Querfield, Internal Affairs, blames the Forty et Eight for actions taken between our

two organizations 48 years ago. Those who made that momentous decision are now dead. And we are now decidedly two separate organizations. However, we of the Forty et Eight are today still dealing with this matter internally. We regret that this is a thorn in the Legion's side. However, as long as we continue to only admit members who are Legionnaires, this problem will continue to intrude upon and irritate the Legion. If we can open our ranks beyond Legion-only, our members will realize they aren't your honor society.

We understand your frustration. Only 1% of Legionaries are Voyageurs. The Legion doesn't particularly care about us. But 100% of Voyageurs are Legion members. Many of us love the Legion. Then too, some of us may feel that by being an officer of an honor society of the Legion, they are somehow better than you who are officers of the Legion. This of course is wrong. But, as long as the Legion continues to blame the Forty et Eight for the 1960 split, that sends a strong signal to our members that if only we change our minds about being independent, then the American Legion will let us be it honor society. You and I know that isn't going to happen, assigning blame helps keep this problem alive.

We want to open our doors to all honorable veterans. We want to quit being a direct competitor for limited Legion manpower and dollars. We want to bring non-Legion members into our ranks, where they will, coincidentally, be surrounded by Voyageurs who are mostly Legion members...we may suppose to the Legion's recruitment benefit. And once we do open our membership criteria beyond the Legion, all talk of us being a "Legion honor society" will stop. It boils down to the Legion answering two questions without assigning blame.

1. Does the American Legion today want the Forty et Eight to be its Honor Society? Yes or No?
2. If the Forty et Eight is willing to legally un-incorporate from its independent status, will the American Legion legally adopt the Forty et Eight as the official Honor Society of The American Legion? Yes or No?

If you say this is impossible and assign no blame, our members will get the point, our

resolution will pass this fall, and this thorn in your side and ours will be gone.

Thank you for helping us clarify this matter to the benefit of both our organizations.

Sincerely,

David R Rabius

Correspondant National

David R Rabius received a call from Bob Spanogle on Friday May 2, 2008 in which he answered the questions asked.

Does The American Legion today want the Forty et Eight to be its Honor Society? Bob's answer is NO.

If the Forty et Eight is willing to legally un-incorporate from its independent status, will the American Legion legally adopt the Forty et Eight as the official Honor Society of the American legion?

Bob's answer is NO.

I think that puts this issue to rest and we can now move on.

Dave

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Update on Jack Fink.

Jack went home on May 7th. He will still be on the ventilator & feeding tube. It is though his trachea so he can't talk but can nod or write notes. After we all get settled in, you are welcome to stop by and say hello to him. If you will still keep all of us in your prayers we would truly appreciate it.

Thanks again, Marilyn Fink

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## Remember all of the Veterans on Memorial Day

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### June 14<sup>th</sup> is Flag Day

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Congratulations are due to Voitures 333, 520, 848, 1292, 1379, 1395, and 1541 for being at 100% or going over. Great Job. We now only need 47 to be at 100%, this is attainable. We need one last push to reach it. Call those unpaid voyageurs.

**Grande Voiture du Missouri**  
**2008 Raffle Drawing 6/28/08**  
First Prize           **\$300**  
Second Prize         **\$200**  
Third Prize           **\$100**  
Tickets **\$1.00** Each or 6 for **\$5.00**

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SPRING GRAND CHEMINOT, MARCH 29, 2008  
HOLIDAY INN BANQUET ROOM, WENTZVILLE, MISSOURI

With a rap of the gavel, Grand Chef de Gare, Leslie G. Willis, opened the Spring Grand Cheminot sharply at 1 PM with a salute to the Flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a much needed prayer by acting Grand Aumonier, Norm Gentry. The Grand Chef said there would be no electronic devices turned on during the Cheminot or you will pay for it.

Roll call of officers showed more absent than excused and the rest were belligerent or a pain in the rear as usual. Roll call of Grand Chefs de Gare Passe showed that seven-answered roll call. Roll call of Grand Cheminots showed that we had a quorum. Voyageurs don't know how to answer roll call and many paid fines for it. Absent were Voitures 292, 293, 333, 447, 460, 520, 848, 966, 1395, and 1402.

Notion offered by Virgil Morice, seconded by George Ridley, that the Fall Grand Cheminot minutes are accepted as printed and sent out...passed

Acting Grand Correspondant Terry Lanning reported that he received a flyer on Ted Lang, who is running for Chef de Chemin de Fer. A thank you from the George B. Boland Trust Committee thanking the Grand Chef's de Gare Passe for their donation in memory of Jerry J. Castulik. Received a letter from Voiture 460 concerning the upcoming resolution about letting any veteran join the 40/8. This will be put in the next newsletter. Announced that there are some files from Bill Wiese on Voiture Constitution changes for some of the Voitures on the table. Also on the table was information for each Voiture about yearend reports, up coming Voiture elections and appointments that need to be submitted to the Grand Correspondant and forms for Voiture delegates and alternates to the Grand Promenade. There were also envelopes for the Grand Directeurs about the yearend reports.

Grand Chef received a cell phone call, and yes his cell phone was turned on and he said he would pay his fine, although he tried to blame Art Wilson.

Acting Grand Correspondant announced he had the following resolutions: for Grand Chef de Gare, Robert W. Phillips, Voiture 1541; for Grand Chef de Train, Gary L. Reno, Voiture 1379; for Grand Commissaire Intendant, Larry R. Ebersold, Voiture 1292; and for Grand Correspondant, Terry L. Lanning, Voiture 448. Two resolutions from Voitures 448 and 333 concerning changing the Nationale Constitution to allow all veterans to join the 40/8.

Grand Commissaire Intendant, Gary L. Reno, reported that the finance report was placed on the chairs and asked if there were any questions. Notion offered by Gary L. Reno, second by Don Fligge, to accept the report subject to audit.... passed

Grand Chef de Train, Robert Phillips, reported on the current Grande membership. Phillips stated that the Grande has 1151 members, but with the changes various Voitures have indicated, then we only need 91 to reach 100%. Phillips said we are getting close and all Voitures need to go back and contact the unpaid members to get us to 100%, it can be done. Phillips presented 100% membership awards to Voitures 1292 and 1379.

Grand Cheminot reports were given by Voiture 3, 38, 130, 448, 760, 1292, 1321, 1379, 1403, and 1541. Some of the highlights are Voiture 3 raised \$2,600 for the Salvation Army Bell Ringing program and has 19 nurses in training; Voiture 38 had 250 kids at Grants Farm and has 4 nurses in training; Voiture 130 has 17 nurses in training and everyone seemed to have a good time at Washington's Birthday Party; Voiture 448 has 2 nurses in training and had a Christmas and Easter party for an orphanage, will have a joint wreck May 10, 2008 at 1:00pm with Voitures 38, 1321, and 1541 at Voiture 38's chateau; Voiture 760 has 4 nurses in training; Voiture 1292 has 4 nurses in training, had a steak night dinner at the Spring Conference;

Voiture 1379 has 3 nurses in training, will have a ChicNic on September 6, 2008; Voiture 1403 will be selling ribs to go over the weekends of Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day, and goes to VA Hospital once a month; Voiture 1541 had their Night at the Races and Coon Supper, they have 2 nurses in training and will be sending 3 boys to Boys State.

Grand Medicin Errol Wilson, reported that 3 PG's were screened this morning and passed the medical tests.

Grand Directeur Nurses Training, Clarence Buckley, stated that he wants all Voitures to make sure they send in a reports. He has pins out and the Voitures need to send their money to him. There are about 40 nurses in training.

Grand Conducteur, John Partin, reported that Voiture 1292 had two new voyageurs and Voiture 1403 had one voyageur in the wreck, which was held this morning.

Grand Directeur Americanism, Sam Guenther, stated that he has recently received the Americanism Traveling Trophies in memory of Ray Owen and Merton Adreon. Ray's trophy has not been used since the early 1990's. Sam will figure out how to handle these trophies.

Grand Directeur Box Car, Bill Evans, could not be here but Terry Lanning stated that he has assumed Jerry Castulik's duties in that he is keeping track of the Box Car Crew and Associate cards. Voitures need to send their money and reports to him. Almost all of the Voitures have outstanding Crew and Associate cards. Send the Box Car pin money to Bill Evans.

Nationale Box Car Committeeman Roger Gray spoke on Box Car and the need to sell the Crew and Associate cards. The Associate cards can be sold to anyone. Roger said that if the Grande reaches goal then a Dame could put a pie in his face at Promenade Nationale.

Grand Directeur Special Awards, David Brazie, could not be here but sent in a written report stating at this time he has not received any applications for consideration for either the Hero of the Year or the Law Officer of the Year, or any other Special Awards. Grand Chef stated he has received a Law Officer of the Year from Voiture 1321 and will be sending it to Brazie.

Grand Directeur Youth Sports, David Christian, asked that the Locales get their reports in. Dave initially took on consignment 250 pins and 200 cards. Several Voitures still have pins outstanding. Dave said it would be appreciated if any Voiture wanted to make additional contributions beyond the sale of their pins. Terry Lanning announced the Grande made its \$100 donation to the Nationale Youth Sports program.

Time & Place Committee, Art Wilson, reported that the Grande Promenade will be held at the Holiday Inn in Wentzville on June 27th, 28th, 29th, 2008. The Fall Grand Cheminot & Homecoming will also be held there on October 3rd, 4th, 5th, 2008.

Sous Correspondant, Terry Lanning will continue to handle the Grande Newsletter until the Grande Promenade. He receives monthly a voucher from Voiture Nationale for most of the Voitures stating if they owe money or have a credit. Instead of re-mailing these out each month he will put the amount in the newsletter every couple of months, however, if a Voiture wants a copy then let him know.

Distinguished Voyageur Award Committee, Ray Brodzinski, stated that he has recently received a nomination for Distinguished Voyageur.

Distinguished Guest Committee, Terry Lanning, stated that the Chef de Chemin de Fer, Bernie Sampson, would be in Independence for the Truman Day affair. The Nationale Correspondant Dave Rabiuis will be at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Banquet Dinner at the VFW Hall in Sedalia on April 18th sponsored by Voiture 333.

Grand Chef de Gare spoke on the Central States Promenade being held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Grand Chef stated that Jerry Castulik was on the Executive Board of Central States Promenade. Discussion pursued on if anyone wanted to run for the Executive Board. Notion by Art Wilson to nominate Leslie Willis to the Executive Board of Central States Promenade, seconded by Joel Hauk .... passed.

New Business, Grand Chef Willis appointed Terry Lanning to be Grand Correspondant to fill the term of Jerry Castulik, notion by Howard Engelbrecht to approve appointment, seconded by Virgil Morice .... passed. Grand Chef made the following appointments for Committees at Grande Promenade, Audit - Ray Brodzinski Chairman, Sam Guenther, and Larry Ebersold, Credentials Committee - Robert Phillips, Nominations - Art Wilson, Resolutions Virgil Morice and Constitution - Don Fligge, notion by Joel Hauk to accept appointments, seconded by George...passed. Grand Chef said we need to make some changes to the checking accounts and CD's. For the four CD's recommended to put the following people on the CD's signature cards; Terry Lanning, Art Wilson, Rich Heigert, and Don Fligge, it will take 2 people to sign for them, notion to approve appointments by George Ridley, seconded by Joel Hauk .... passed. Grand Chef recommended replacing Jerry Castulik with Terry Lanning on the checking account and Money Market account; notion to approve appointments by George Ridley, seconded by Joel Hauk .... passed. Grand Chef talked about several of people going to Jerry Castulik's house and went through his records and kept the pertinent records for the Grande.

Under Good Of The Voiture, Gary Reno talked about a letter on Nationale web page to send a letter to the National Legion Commander to allow the 40/8 to continue calling ourselves the Honor Society of the American Legion. Gary does not like the idea and will not do it.

Roger Gray spoke on the resolution for changing the Nationale Constitution to allow any veteran to join the 40/8, and personally did not like the idea of changing the Constitution. Ray Brodzinski then spoke on the same topic and gave some history of the 40/8. Ray said if we don't make the change then the 40/8 membership is going to continue to go down and we are going down with the ship if we don't open up the membership. Howard Engelbrecht said one of the problems is the Legion needs to open up the eligible dates to not exclude any dates, because this is causing some veterans to not be able to join the Legion. There were several others that spoke on this issue. Grand Chef said he wants everyone to be informed on the issue and come prepared to discuss it and vote on it at the Grande Promenade.

Grand Chef de Gare Willis closed the Spring Grand Cheminot in the proper manner at 2:53 PM.

Submitted by,  
Terry L. Lanning  
Grand Correspondant



*La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux*  
*Grande Voiture du Missouri*

**OFFICIAL CALL**

**TO: ALL GRAND CHEMINOTS**  
**ALL GRAND OFFICERS**  
**ALL GRAND CHEFS de GARE PASSE**  
**ALL VOITURE'S CHEFS de GARE & CORRESPONDANTS**  
**ALL VOYAGEURS OF GRANDE VOITURE du MISSOURI**

This is the OFFICIAL CALL for the Grande Promenade and Cheminot to be held June 27th, 28th, 29th, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Hotel, 900 Corporate Parkway, Wentzville, Missouri 63385, (636) 327-7001.

There will not be an Executive Board Meeting. If one comes up, it will be posted in the Hospitality Room. The Grande Promenade Committee Meetings will also be held on Saturday Morning and the time and place will also be posted in the Hospitality Room.

The Grande Cheminot will be held on Saturday June 28th, 2008 at 1:00 PM at the Holiday Inn Hotel. The Grand Chef de Gare, Leslie G. Willis, Jr., urges all Grand Directeurs that are giving out awards to the Locales for this year, that it be done during this Cheminot and not the Grande Promenade on Sunday. It could save you a fine.

The Grande Promenade will be held on Sunday Morning, June 29th, 2008 starting at 9:00 AM sharp. Chairmen of the Grande Promenade Committees, Audit, Credentials, Constitution, Nominations, and Resolutions, will give their reports at this time along with the election of new Officers, Delegates and Alternates for the 89th Promenade Nationale in September 3th-6th, 2008 in Orlando, Florida.

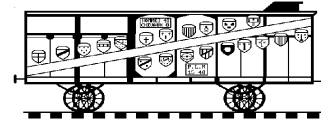
ALL GRAND OFFICERS AND GRAND CHEMINOTS ARE EXPECTED TO GIVE A REPORT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES AND SUBMIT A COPY IN WRITING TO THE GRAND CORRESPONDANT.

All Voyageurs are to be in proper attire. The following Officers are expected to be in coat, tie, shirt, long pants, socks and shoes: Grand Chef de Gare, Grand Chef de Train, Grand Commissaire Intendant, Grand Correspondant, Grand Garde de la Porte, Grand Lampiste, Grand Conducteur, Sous Grand Conducteurs, and Grand Aumonier.

Terry L. Lanning  
Grand Correspondant

Leslie G. Willis, Jr.  
Grand Chef de Gare





**MEMBERSHIP GRAND VOITURE DU MISSOURI**  
as of May 1, 2008

LOCALE	2007	2008	PERCENT	Short/Over
3	130	112	86%	-18
38	156	155	99%	-1
130	32	30	93%	-2
292	61	59	96%	-2
293	15	12	80%	-3
333	83	100	120%	17
447	9	2	22%	-7
448	211	187	88%	-24
460	67	65	97%	-2
520	14	14	100%	0
760	90	88	97%	-2
848	14	17	121%	3
966	11	7	63%	-4
1292	69	72	104%	3
1321	87	86	98%	-1
1379	32	35	109%	3
1395	20	21	105%	1
1402	44	38	86%	-6
1403	57	51	89%	-6
1541	65	69	106%	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,267</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>(47)</b>

Grand Voiture du Missouri  
Terry Lanning  
Sous Grand Correspondant  
2045 Granada Dr.  
Florissant, MO 63033

