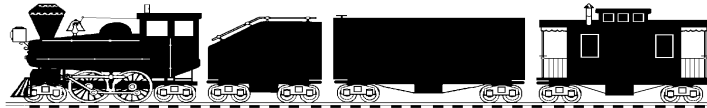


Communiqué
La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Cheveaux
Grande Voiture du Missouri



December 2015 - Grand Chef de Gare David Bexten - L'Editeur Grant Willis

The Grand Chef Sez

Fellow Voyagers,
Here it is, the end of November already. Where did this month go? Deer Season has come and gone. I hope all of you hunters had a successful season. As for me, well.....hmmm, he's still running. On the 20th of November Patty and I decided to head for Georgia for a short visit with my daughter and her husband, the parents of, you guessed it, The Georgia Boys! It was a short trip with lots of fun and joy seeing everyone. My daughter works at Gander Mountain, and yes I spent a little too much time there.
I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving; our house was filled with great family and food. We have so much to be thankful for. God bless all the troops that could not be home with their family during this holiday season. Tomorrow is the 1st day of December and my wife's birthday. Happy Birthday Babe, and thanks for being by my side. I couldn't do this without you. It is also the start of Voiture Christmas parties. We have been honored to be invited to several Voiture's. I hope the weather cooperates for all our travels. I am looking forward to visiting with everyone. So until next month, hoping for everyone to have a safe and blessed Christmas.

Merry Christmas to All
Dave Bexten
Grand Chef de Gare

**Sous Grand
Correspondants Notes**

Articles for the Newsletter are due at the end of each month. For the following months I would like to receive an article from the following Directeur's:

January – Voiture Activities, VAWS
February – Special Awards, Distinguished Voyager Award
March - Ritual

If you have anyone that would like to receive this communique electronically please provide their email address to:

willis.grant@sbcglobal.net.

Here are some pen and ink changes for the Grand Yearbook:

SPRING GRANDE CHEMINOT &
WRECK

April 1 to April 3, 2016

Ramada Plaza Hotel & Oasis Convention
Center, Springfield, Missouri

AMERICANISM

Americanism is attachment or allegiance to the traditions, interests, or ideals of the United States this is our heritage. The many activities of the Forty and Eight are designed to acknowledge and preserve that heritage, recognizing all or the inalienable rights of man.

Here are just a few of the programs that the Forty and Eight uses to promote Americanism. Americanism - Promote respect for the flag, Constitution, Law and Order and the proven willingness to defend these principles is evident in the day-to-day activities of members of our society.

Flags for First Graders – This program helps educate American youth in the history, respect and protocol.

Nurses Training program In 1941 we began issuing Nurses Scholarships to deserving individuals willing to undergo formal training and make a career of that very noble profession. In 1946 an acute shortage of nurses came to the attention of our Voyageurs and a Nurses Training Program was initiated at the Voiture Locale level. In 1955 Voiture Nationale formally established our current Nurses Training Program.

Child Welfare program founded in 1923 to help ease the pain and suffering of those children whose fathers never returned or who were unable to care for their needs after the "Big War." Today, this program has grown to include all children with emergent needs and our efforts amount to over eight millions of dollars annually.

Box Car - The National Box Car Association set goals of making contributions to Hospitals, Children's Homes and Orphanages. Expanding its 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 HOBLO Clowns and bands,

etc. Also a monetary donation is made to the host cities 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.

Every year I ask Locales to report on their participation through the preceding year. Yet our numbers seem to be far below what they should be because as a Forty and Eighter and a veteran almost every activity you do can be reported somewhere on the Americanism Consolidated report.

The Americanism Consolidated report tracks your activities in terms of hours, dollars spent, and miles traveled and these items can count towards the 40et8 even if you are doing them for another organization.

Remember that you are always a 40et8'er. So please keep track of your good deeds and report them so we can let the world know our good work.

Your Voiture may also help support the Americanism program by purchasing pins. The 2016 Americanism pins are available now.

Robert Emery

remery18@comcast.net

816.585.2098

P.S. I also have BOX CAR challenge coins (individual and full sets (5 coins))

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - 2016

Below is the MAVO Legislative Agenda for the 2016 Missouri Legislative Session. You will note that there is no bullet for the legalization of medical marijuana as the various veteran organizations at our meeting last week could not agree on backing this item. Individual veteran's organizations are free to express their own opinion as long as they do not say MAVO that they represent MAVO. Distribution of this agenda will be

made to all legislators as well as the executive branch. Legislators will begin pre-filing legislation on 1 December 2015.

Richard A. Heigert
MAVO Legislative Committee Chairman

- Maintain the current funding for the operation and maintenance of state veterans homes and state veterans cemeteries and, in addition, reinstate and recover General Revenue funding to cover the Missouri Veterans Commission administrative costs, veterans' capital improvement projects, the Veterans Service Officers program, the Veterans Service Organizations' Service Officer Grant Program and other needs of Missouri's veterans;
- Legislative resolution to urge both the Missouri Veterans Commission and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to jointly address the demand for Veterans Skilled Nursing Care in the State of Missouri;
- Obtain a state income tax exemption for the military pay of Missouri residents stationed inside of Missouri;
- Legislative resolution urging Congress and the President to pass the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015, (S. 901/H.R. 1769);
- Urge legislation to remove the fee for the Gold Star license plates;
- Support creation of a Missouri WWI Centennial Commission;
- Urge Congress to reinstate POW and MIA as authorized military duty statuses;

- Support any other legislation introduced in the legislature determined by the MAVO Legislative Committee to be in the best interest of veterans.

CHILD WELFARE

Greetings Voyageurs,

Thanksgiving has past and the Christmas Holiday season has begun, I would like to wish all Voyageurs and their Families a Merry Christmas and thank you for all you do in support of the Programs of La Societe. This is always a busy time for our Locale Child Welfare programs. Many Children are in need of assistance during the holidays either for food or gifts. I encourage all Locales to reach out and assist these needy families if possible. I would also encourage thorough investigation and follow up into assistance request's to ensure the need is valid and these hard earned funds are used to assist needy Children as this season, unfortunately, also brings out the worst in some people in the form of scams and just plain dishonesty. If you have not purchased 2016 child welfare pins please contact me msgsgt2@yahoo.com or the National Directeur. This is the last year for the angel pins and I gather they will be changing design next year. The pins are \$3.00 each. I remind the Locales that funds from the Sandy fund are still available this year. This fund was established for hurricane Sandy a few years ago for the purpose of disaster. If you have a large case such as house fire or flooding, these funds can be requested from the National Directeur. These funds will be converted to the freedom Honor Flight Program if not used. In closing I again wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thanks for all you do

Ben Sargent
Grand Directeur, Child Welfare

GRANDE VOITURE DU MISSOURI



GRANDE CHEMINOT and PROMENADE



APRIL 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2016

Ramada Plaza Hotel & Oasis Convention Center

2546 North Glenstone Ave

Springfield, MO 65803

417.866.5253

888.532.4338

Room Rate: \$82.00 (+Tax) per night

For Deluxe King or Deluxe Double

Room Rate includes free breakfast

MULTIPLE EVENTS AT THE HOTEL THAT WEEKEND: TO ASSURE A ROOM

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

Handicapped Rooms Available

Make your reservations directly with Ramada Plaza by March 3rd

Mention 40 & 8 Honor Society for special rate when making reservations

Friday

Registration 1500 until 1800

Hospitality Room 1500 until ????

Saturday

Registration 0900 until 1200

Wreck 0900-1130

LUNCH 1130 - 1300

1300 - Wreck Continues

Hospitality Room opens immediately following Wreck until 1730

Grande Chef de Gare Passe' Social Hour 1700 -1800

Social Hour 1800 – Cash Bar

Banquet 1900 Hospitality Room: After Banquet until ????

Sunday

Grande Cheminot 0900-1200

Check Out

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME

Deadline to register for the banquet is March 3, 2016 NO EXCEPTIONS

Make your check payable to Voiture 292 for registration and meal.

Send to: TD Berkley
2545 County Rd 289
Columbia, MO 65202

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Title: _____ Voiture Number: _____

Banquet \$25.00/Person x Number Guests _____ \$ _____

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

Meal Selection: will have confirmed by next issue Total \$ _____

Voyageur: BBQ Chicken 1/4 or Pulled Pork Circle one

Guest: BBQ Chicken 1/4 or Pulled Pork Circle one

Membership 2016 November 25, 2016

Grande du MISSOURI

Voiture	2015	2016	2015					Short/over Goal
	YTD Total	YTD Total	Year End Total	% of Quota	short/over	Goal	% of Goal	
3	36	23	47	48.94%	-24	50	46.00%	-27
38	50	53	97	54.64%	-44	102	51.96%	-49
130	18	16	30	53.33%	-14	32	50.00%	-16
292	41	40	44	90.91%	-4	47	85.11%	-7
333	154	78	190	41.05%	-112	200	39.00%	-122
447	2	0	2	0.00%	-2	3	0.00%	-3
448	27	60	95	63.16%	-35	100	60.00%	-40
460	48	69	65	106.15%	4	69	100.00%	0
520	6	0	10	0.00%	-10	11	0.00%	-11
760	44	37	64	57.81%	-27	68	54.41%	-31
966	4	4	4	100.00%	0	5	80.00%	-1
1292	28	42	75	56.00%	-33	79	53.16%	-37
1321	23	49	66	74.24%	-17	70	70.00%	-21
1379	39	42	55	76.36%	-13	58	72.41%	-16
1395	15	15	15	100.00%	0	16	93.75%	-1
1402	1	13	16	81.25%	-3	17	76.47%	-4
1403	12	22	24	91.67%	-2	26	84.62%	-4
1541	31	51	80	63.75%	-29	84	60.71%	-33
TOTALS	579	614	979	62.72%	-365	1037	59.21%	-423

Merry

Christmas