



Communiqué



La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux

Grande Voiture du Missouri

December 2025 - Grand Chef de Gare Rose Noonan

L'Editeur Robert C. Emery



Greeting Voyageurs

The Holiday Season is upon us – I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving this past week. A special time to spend with family and friends during the Holiday season. I want to wish

everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Keep our less fortunate Veterans in your thoughts and prayers during the Holidays let us enjoy some time with family and friends during these upcoming months. I would ask that everyone make an effort to visit with our elderly Veterans and those less fortunate during this time.

Our calendar is filling up quickly, but we both enjoy the trips to other Voitures. I look forward to the upcoming Christmas parties scheduled for this month to include:

Christmas dinner on 3 December, AJ and I will be traveling to Voiture 292 in Columbia for their Annual Dinner.

On 7 December, we are visiting Voiture 1321 for their Christmas Party at American Legion Post 253 at Festus, MO.

Next - 17 December, I will be traveling to V1541 in Wentzville, Mo for their Christmas Party. Looking forward to the visit.

Wreaths Across America will be held at the Fort

Leonard Wood Missouri Veterans Cemetery on 13 December 2025 at 1100 for anyone who would like to attend. This is always a special event.

Spring Wreck is just around the corner and will be here before we know it – I would ask that everyone attending submit their registration form and make hotel reservations as soon as possible. If Voitures have PG's that will be attending – please identify them when submitting registration form so the Conducteur and his Wrecking Crew can plan accordingly. Looking forward to welcoming our new Voyageur Militaires into the Forty and Eight and Grande du Missouri.

MEMBERSHIP: As of 01 December 2025, Grande du Missouri is at 64.60%. Great job on the renewals for Voiture 38 and 130 for already obtaining 95.45% and 95.00%. I encourage all Voitures to get their renewals submitted. I challenge every Voyageur to identify eligible Veterans and talk to them about the 40 and 8 and the programs of this Organization. Invite these Veterans into the 40 and 8 organization and make them feel welcome.

If any Voiture has a special event coming up in the next few months, send Robert Emery a flier to include in the Communiqué.

Rose Noonan

Grand Chef de Gare

Grande du Missouri

ajnoonan2003@yahoo.com

(573) 647-9162



Nurses Training

Kevin Johnson

Voyageurs, Across the United States, hospitals, clinics, and care facilities are facing a growing challenge that affects us all: a severe shortage of healthcare workers—especially nurses. This crisis, decades in the making, was only worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. And while national solutions are being pursued, the need for more trained, compassionate nurses is both urgent and immediate. As members of a proud veteran's organization, we know what it means to serve—and few professions carry on that spirit more than nursing. Through our Nurses Training Program, we've supported countless students on their journey into this noble field. Today, that support is more vital than ever. COVID-19: A Breaking Point for Healthcare Workers Even before the pandemic, the demand for nurses was outpacing supply. When COVID-19 struck, it pushed our healthcare system to the brink. Nurses worked under extreme pressure—many burned out, some left the field entirely, and others never had the chance to complete their training due to school closures and clinical disruptions.

We now face a nationwide nursing shortage that affects every part of the country—urban, rural, and everywhere in between. Why This Matters to Us This crisis isn't abstract—it hits home. It impacts our veterans, our families, our neighbors, and even our fellow Voyageurs. When hospitals don't have enough nurses, it's patients who suffer. By supporting nursing students today, we help ensure that someone will be there to care for us—and future generations—tomorrow. The Role We Can Play—And Why It Matters Each year, our Nurses Training Program provides scholarships through the Boland Trust Fund to aspiring nurses, easing the financial burden of tuition, clinical placements, licensure, and more. These awards make the difference for students who might not otherwise be able to pursue this calling. We're not just supporting education—we're helping build the future of healthcare. A Call to Action: Let's Keep the Wheels Turning After the conclusion of a very productive Promenade Nationale in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and the start of our 26th membership year I'm not just asking you to join a movement—I'm launching one and inviting you to climb aboard for the year ahead. I'm reaching out early to ask for your help in driving this mission forward: • Support the sale of our 2026 Nurses Training pins and cards. • Consider making a direct donation to the Nurses Training

Program. But we're not stopping there. We are committed to keeping this program active and vibrant by expanding our efforts. We're: • Presenting Certificates of Appreciation to recognize those making a difference in healthcare. • Distributing endorsement cards that publicly affirm our organization's support for healthcare workers. • Publishing a new booklet listing available scholarships and grants for nursing students. Too often, when Voyageurs think of Nurses Training, we think only of the Boland Trust Fund. While we have proudly supported that fund—and always will—we must do more if we want this program to grow. If Boland is all we do, we risk becoming stagnant. And let's be clear: inactivity is not a trait of a Voyageur. So, let's get active. Let's get creative. And most importantly—Jump on the Bandwagon! How You Can Help There are many meaningful ways you can contribute: • Host a fundraising event at your local promenade—such as a dinner, raffle, or "Nurses Night" with a guest speaker. • Organize a tribute donation drive in honor of a nurse who made a difference in your life. • Partner with local clinics or businesses to secure sponsorships or donations. • Promote scholarship opportunities within your community and schools. • Share inspiring stories of past recipients or nurses in your area. We're Not Just Witnessing History—We're Shaping It We are not powerless. We are veterans. We are Voyageurs. We are leaders. Let's ensure the next generation is ready to serve in scrubs—just as we once served in uniform. Together, we can turn concern into action—and action into lasting impact. In service and solidarity,

Kevin T. Johnson National Nurses Training

Grande Spring Fundraiser -
Is a Jockey Costume Contest w/Stick Pony. \$50 Registration Fee or \$50 fine for non-participants. Donations to Jockeys strutting the floor. Best costume judged.

Send your registration/fine money made out to Grande du Missouri

to::

A.J. Noonan

20165 Highway 28

Dixon, MO 65459



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 Spring Grande Cheminot and Wreck to be held March 6th to March 8th, 2026 at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, 2546 North Glenstone Avenue, Springfield, MO 65803, phone (417) 866-5253, or (888) 532-4338.

The Active Wreck will be held on Saturday, March 7th, 2026, at 9:00AM in Springfield.

The Spring Grande Cheminot will be held on Sunday March 8th, 2026 at 9:00 AM at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center.

There will be a 2026-2027 Officer Slating Meeting on Friday evening. The time and place will be posted in the Hospitality Room.

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 male Officers are expected to be in coat, tie, shirt, long pants, socks and shoes, whereas female Officers are expected to be in a dress or skirt and blouse or slacks and blouse and shoes: Grand Chef de Gare, Grand Chef de Train, Grand Commissaire Intendant, Grand Correspondant, Grand Garde de la Porte, Grand Conducteur, Sous Grand Conducteurs, and Grand Aumonier.

A.J. Noonan
Grand Correspondant

Rose Noonan
Grand Chef de Gare

Nationale Committie Report

November 1, 2025

Grande Ritual Directeurs, Grande Chefs de Gare, Grande Correspondants, As we begin this new 40 et 8 year, let us review the Opening and Closing of a Promenade in our Ritual. Page 1, Chapter 1, Opening Ceremony of a Promenade. This chapter gives us instructions about changes to our Ritual allowing only the Aumonier to offer a similar prayer to the one in the Ritual. No other changes or substitutions will be made. Voiture National has the recently revised Blue Ritual and Manual of Ceremonies for sale at Emblem Sales. Order a copy to be correct about our Ritual. Chapter 1 also has information about the U.S. Flag, Altar and Altar Cloth, proper podium protocol, Garde de la Porte duties and what each rap of the gavel means. On Page 43, large print edition, the Wrecking Chef instructs new Voyageurs Militaire about Promenades, Voitures, entering and exiting a Voiture while it is in session, addressing Officers, offering a notion before a Promenade. In the beginning of our year, Voitures can make plans for the Birthday Celebration in March and the Calvin Kane Memorial Service around Memorial Day, election of Officers and Installation of new Officers. I encourage you to continue to use the Blue Ritual and Manual of Ceremonies for all Promenades and 40 et 8 ceremonies.

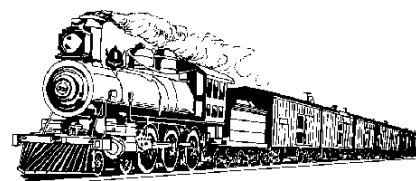
Importance of Membership

Membership: The Heartbeat of Our Legacy It is often said that membership is the lifeblood of our organization, and this statement could not be more accurate. Our members are the foundation upon which our history, values, and future rest. Without the dedication and involvement of our members, our organization risks becoming nothing more than a footnote in history, losing the ability to share our unique story with the world. Preserving Our Rich History Our organization boasts a rich and storied past, full of accomplishments and traditions that deserve to be celebrated. It is our members who keep this history alive, passing down knowledge and experiences to new generations. Every time I interact with fellow veterans and ask if they are familiar with the 40 & 8 and its mission, I am presented with a valuable opportunity. These conversations serve as a gateway to share our story and invite others to join our ranks, ensuring our legacy continues to thrive. Growing Through Recruitment To secure our future, it is essential that we continue to recruit new members. Growth is vital for any organization, and it is through welcoming fresh faces that we gain new ideas and perspectives. We all recognize how special this organiza-

tion is to us, and it is our responsibility to convey that passion and commitment to prospective members. By sharing our experiences and the impact the organization has had on our lives, we invite others to become part of something meaningful and enduring. The Importance of Renewals Recruiting new members is only part of the equation. Equally critical is the renewal of existing memberships. Our current members serve as mentors and guides to those who are new, offering wisdom, continuity, and support. Renewing memberships demonstrates a commitment to the organization and ensures the stability and ongoing success of our shared mission. Welcoming Back Former Members Sometimes, members may leave the organization for various reasons. However, reinstating those who wish to return is just as important as recruiting and renewing. Former members bring valuable experience and perspective, and their decision to rejoin strengthens our community. By maintaining open lines of communication and fostering a welcoming environment, we encourage past members to reconnect and contribute once again. Conclusion: Members Make Us Strong In the end, everything we hope to accomplish depends on our membership. Members are the storytellers, the mentors, and the caretakers of our traditions. Without them, we lose not only our history but also our ability to shape the future. Let us continue to recruit, renew, and reinstate with purpose and pride, for our organization can do nothing without its members.

More FYI

**Jim Vissers from the Grande de Wisconsin
elected as your 105th Chef de Chemin de
Fer**



FYI

**National 40et8 Emblem Sales is now
charging \$3.00 for credit card orders**



GRANDE VOITURE DU MISSOURI
Grande Spring Wreck & Chemlnot
March 06 to March 08, 2026
Oasis Hotel and Convention Center
2546 North Glenstone Ave.
Springfield, MO 65803
417-866-5253

Room Rate \$119.00 (+Tax) per night for
Deluxe King or Deluxe Double
PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE
Handicapped Rooms Available
Make your reservations directly with Oasis Hotel
Mention 40&8 Honor Society for special rate when making reservations

Friday March 6th, 2026
Registration 1500 - 1800
Hospitality Room 1500 - ??? Kalahari / Mojave Room
2026-2027 Officer Slating Meeting 1900

Saturday March 7th, 2026
Registration 0900 – 1200
Spring Wreck Activities 0800-1130 Sahara Room
Lunch 1130 - 1300
Grande Promenade/Spring Wreck 1300 – 1600 Coco Room
Grand Chef de Gare Passé Social Hour 1700-1800 Hospitality Room
Social Hour 1800 Cash Bar
Banquet 1900 Maui
Hospitality Room will be open after the Banquet

Sunday March 8th, 2026
Grande Cheminot 0900 Coco Room

To register for the Grande Spring Wreck and Cheminot. Make check payable to Voiture 460

Send to:
Ben Sargent
25625 Swan Road
Richland, MO 65556

Last Name _____ **First Name** _____ **Spouse/Guest** _____

Title _____ **Voiture** _____

Banquet / Person: \$40.00 X No. Guest _____ **=** _____

Registration Fee \$15.00 (Voyageurs Only) _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Membership Grande du Missouri

4-Dec-25

Voiture Name	Voiture	2025 Year End	2026 To-date	2025 Quota	Sh/Ov Quota	% of Quota
HEART OF AMERICA	3	16	15	32	-17	46.88%
SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS	38	44	42	44	-2	95.45%
JESSE JAMES	130	19	38	40	-2	95.00%
HEART OF MISSOURI	292	23	17	23	-6	73.91%
STATE FAIR	333	46	82	100	-18	82.00%
GATEWAY	448	34	38	61	-23	62.30%
CENTRAL OZARK	460	35	39	56	-17	69.64%
KICKAPOO	760	12	14	24	-10	58.33%
MARK TWAIN	966	2	2	2	0	100.00%
CAPITAL	1292	48	28	72	-44	38.89%
MINERAL AREA	1321	1	13	47	-34	27.66%
NEUF COMPT	1379	27	25	32	-7	78.13%
ATCHISON NODAWAY HOLT Counties	1402	1	0	14	-14	0.00%
LAKE OF THE OZARK	1403	4	3	4	-1	75.00%
TWO RIVERS	1541	40	35	45	-10	77.78%
Missouri Total		352	391	596	-205	65.60%

