

Communiqué

La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux

Grande Voiture du Missouri

November 2026 - Grand Chef de Gare Benjamin Sargent L'Editeur Robert C. Emery



Greetings Voyageurs, I hope this message finds everyone well. As we get to watch the fall colors come in here in the Ozarks I truly hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather. Things slowed down a little in October as far as travel went.

I truly appreciate all who came to Springfield for the Fall Cheminot and Grand Chef's Homecoming. It was a great Cheminot and business was taken care of. I want to thank Grand Chef de Train Forrest Johnson and Kinberly for setting up a great hospitality room which I feel was enjoyed by all. We had a very good turn out with 47 Guests attending the Banquet. Shelly and I greatly appreciated all the comradery and generosity of the Voyageurs and special guests who attended. We were honored to have the Missouri Department Commander Alex Slocum and the Departmental Drapeau Metta Baily in attendance as well as the National Nurse of the Year Katrina Blanco. It was an honor to assist Kevin Johnson in presenting her with the National Nurse of the Year Award. Her professionalism laid out in her biography optimizes what Nurses do every day, how important what we do every day to support nurses in training, and it was very a well-deserved award. The registration forms for Spring Wreck are available in this communique and on the Grande's web site, I encourage all to get your registrations and reservations submitted early to allow the Grande Chef de Train to properly plan this very important event. As November and the winter months approach, I remind all to drive safely in your travels and wish all a Happy Halloween, an enjoyable Veterans Day and a very happy Thanksgiving. Please take some time to enjoy family and friends and reach out to those Comrades who can't travel.

On to membership, we are into a new membership year now and the latest membership report shows Grande du Missouri at a little over 56% of quota and 237 short. Although it is early in the year, I encourage all Locale Correspondant's, Chef de Train's and Chef de Gare's to start working on renewals for 2027 and find new Voyageurs to fill the shoes of those lost last year. It has been my experience that the annual dues paying

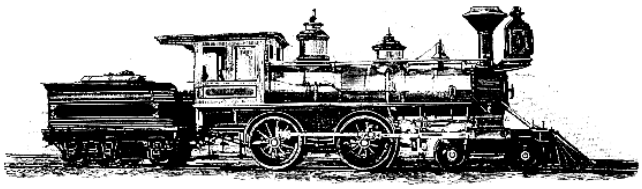
Voyageur's we lose each year are the ones that can't or don't show up for monthly Promenades. Locale Chef de Gare's and Chef de Train's should make it point a during your Promenade's to scrub your rosters and get the Voyageur's in attendance help reach out to those not in attendance to remind them they are still welcome and their membership is appreciated. I continue to look forward to a great year, thank you for your support and confidence and please reach out to me with dates and times that are best for me to visit your Locales or any events I can attend. I am currently scheduled to visit Voiture's 292 on December 2nd and 1321 on December 6th

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V/R

Ben Sargent
Grand Chef de Gare
573-528-6110
msgsgt2@yahoo.com





Letter From Sous National Directeur Ritual

Hello Voyageurs,

Let me start by introducing myself. I am Todd McIlrath and I am the new

Directeur of Ritual. Last year, I was one of your Sous Chef de Chemin de Fers for

Region 2. Prior to that, I was a

Sous Directeur of Nurses Training 2022-2025,

Nationale Lampiste 2022-2023, and Alternate Cheminot 2022-2023.

I have made contact with the prior Directeur and am waiting for him to send

me the records of the history and changes that have been made to the program

during his appointment.

My Sous Directeurs this year are Timothy Gilbert from California

and

Rose

Noonan from Missouri. Their e-mails are

PLASTERSLINGER@YAHOO.COM

and

AJNOONAN2003@YAHOO.COM

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Please feel free to send us an e-mail of any thought or suggestions of

changes we could make to our Ritual Guide.

In Service to La Societe

Todd McIlrath

Directeur

of Ritual

419-706-8099

dagidy@aol.com

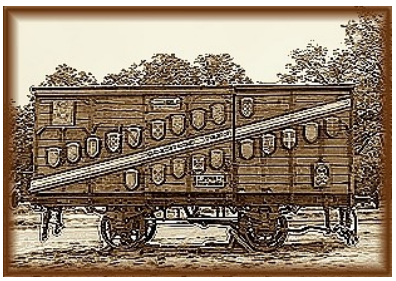
Note from the Grand Correspondant

It is with deepest sorrow that I inform everyone that Grand Chef de Passe 2006 Chubbs Buckley (V760) passed away today. I have no further information at this time but will keep everyone updated with arrangements. Please keep Martha in your prayers during this difficult time.

AJ Noonan

Grand Correspondant

Grande du Missouri



Fall Grand Cheminot, October 17, 2026
Oasis Convention Center, Springfield, Missouri

With a rap of the gavel, Grand Chef de Gare Ben Sargent, opened the Fall Grand Cheminot at 1:00 PM with a salute to the Flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a prayer by Grand Aumonier Ted McCart.

Grand Correspondant conducted roll call of officers. Roll call of Grand Chefs de Gare Passe showed twelve were present. Roll call of Grand Cheminots showed ten were present. We had a quorum. Absent were Voitures 3,38, 966, 1402 and 1403.

Grand Avocat Kevin Johnson said we will follow the Grande du Missouri Constitution and bylaws and then Roberts's rules of order.

Notion offered by Kevin Johnson, seconded by Dan Levasseur, that the Grand Promenade and Cheminot minutes are accepted as printed and sent out...Passed.

Grand Correspondant AJ Noonan gave the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, held October 17, 2026, at 9:00am. Attendees include Chef de Gare Ben Sargent, Chef de Train Forrest Johnson, Commissaire Intendant Dan "Frenchie" Levasseur, Correspondant AJ Noonan, Cheminot-at-Large Terry Lanning, Ralph Turner, Chip Berkley, Calvin Bumgarner and Kevin Johnson. Additional attendees were Chef de Gare Passe Frank Angelo, Ed Jones, Hallie Williams, Ron Leverenz, Mike Scruby, Rose Noonan, Grand Aumonier / Grand Directeur Box Car Ted McCart. The 2026-2027 proposed budget was presented by Dan Levasseur. Calvin Bumgarner offered a notion to accept the budget as printed, seconded by Kevin Johnson - passed. Discussed what fundraiser we should have at the Spring Wreck. Decided to do Hillbilly Golf. Chip Berkley volunteered to bring his set. If a Voiture does not participate then there will be a $50 fine. The participation cost is $50 per Voiture. It was decided the Grande should invite Chef de Chemin de Fer Deb Reynolds to the Grande Cheminot and Wreck with Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Mildred Wright-Pearson as Alternate. Grand Correspondant AJ Noonan will send the Voiture Nationale Visit Request. The Executive Committee closed the meeting at 9:40am. Notion by Terry Lanning to approve the minutes from Executive Committee seconded by Kevin Johnson and passed. Also discussed removing budget lines for Box Car and Youth Sports ($100 each) if they are not being used. Proposed budget also decreased total for printing from $300 to $200 due to decrease number of Directories printed.

Grand Correspondant AJ Noonan stated the new yearbooks are in the back as well as travel chits voucher for Grande Officers. There were no Resolutions presented. Awards from Promenade Nationale were presented by Chef de Gare Ben Sargent. Recognition to Grande du Missouri and Locale Voitures for Nurses Training, Americanism, Youth Sports and History/Scrapbooks

Grand Commissaire Intendant, Dan Levasseur, read the proposed budget and finance report. The current balance of Now Checking Account as of 16 Oct 2026 is $4,596.77. Notions offered by Tommy Thomas to accept the budget and the finance report, second by Robert Emery… passed.

Grand Chef de Train Forrest Johnson had two Sous Chef de Trains present. Sous Grand Chef de Train's Calvin Bumgarner (Voiture 460, 760 and 1321), and Chip Berkley (Voiture 292,333,1292 and 1403). Forrest Johnson reported the Grand was currently at 51.28% down 267 Voitures but ahead of last year at this time. Notion offered to accept the Membership Report, second by Wade Mano… passed.

Cheminot Nationale Ron Leverenz provided the new password for this year. Alternate Cheminot Nationale Rose Noonan had no report.

Highlights of the Grand Cheminot reports are: Voiture 130 reported on current Voiture Activities to include participating in the Fall Flea Market in Sparks, KS. High temperatures and affected the crowds. Managed $2000 in cloth sales and $1200 in trash bag sales. Conducted 60 funerals in conjunction with American Legion, Riders and SAL. Placed flags on Holidays and elections along with flags down cemetery lane and Veteran graves. Visited nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Normally post Colors and Flag folding ceremonies. Membership is currently at 85% with 34 paid Voyageurs. Voiture 292 stated they currently have 19 paid members. Grand Chef de Gare Ben Sargent conducted their Installation in August. Voiture 333 had an entry in the Sedalia Fourth of July Parade and the State Fair Opening Day Parade on August 13. Voyageur Melvin Ficken was honored at the State Fair Retreat on August 13 and Allan Hawkins was honored on August 19. Grand Chef de Gare Ben Sargent and his wife were guests at our Locale Promenade on August 20. the Grande Chef de Gare Sargent installed officers of the Voiture and the Cabane. A donation of $13,000 for Nursing Scholarships was received. Plans at present are to award 14 $1000 nursing scholarships for the 2027-2028 school year. A donation of $1000.00 was made to the Knights of Columbus following their preparing breakfasts for those placing flags at cemeteries prior to Memorial Day as well as their assistance at the

Memorial Day Free Lunch. The American Ex-Prisoners of War bronze plaque for the Boxcar was mounted for display on the Boxcar. Voiture 333 had two voyageurs/ Dames/spouses and one JROTC Cadet at the boxcar handing out information sheets and explaining history of the boxcar to interested State Fair attendees from 9 am to 4 pm on each of the first 10 days of the Fair. The Smith-Cotton Army JROTC hosted a raider meet on October 7 with 14 schools participating. Chef de Gare Cliff McBride and Correspndant Ernest Parker presented 3rd to 1st place trophies in 10 categories. Voiture 333 donated the trophies at a cost of around $4000. Downtown flags (48) will be replaced Sunday, October 18.Flags for First Graders program has started. To date 6 elementary schools have been completed with over 400 flags given. Voiture 333 purchased 30 wreaths for the 2026 Wreaths Across America Program at a cost of $510.00. Membership stands at 99% with 99 of 100 for our goal. 2 new members - will be forwarding membership cards to Nationale next week bringing us to 101%. Voiture 448 reported if you know of any homes with 9-10 young children – they are looking to support them during the Christmas time and have the Local Shriners that are willing to help. Voiture 460 activities include monthly Promenade, 2 Nursing Training Scholarship awarded with 1 pending. Membership is currently at 50/56 for 89.23%. Supporting 4 Youth Sports programs. Participating in Trunk or Treat for Halloween along with Veterans Day Parade and Cemetery flag placement. Voyageur Clay Williams was nominated and selected as the Veteran of the Year for Pulaski County. He will be Grand Marshal for the Veterans Day Parade. Voiture 760 has 3 renewals for Nursing Training. Voiture 1292 officers installed by Grand Chef de Gare. This year's Golf Tournament raised nearly $16,000 year allowing them to support $1000 Scholarships for Nurses. V1292 Chef de Gare was installed – Ken Gulledge. Will be conducting Teddy Bear run for special needs children again this year in order to hand out gift bags during Christmas. Voiture 1321 has conducted 2 blood drives exceeding quotas at both. Conducts 2 food drives monthly. Assisted with the Festus-Crystal City Elks Lodge 1721 barbeque at the Jefferson Barracks Hospital. Funeral Honor team performed 12 services at local cemeteries. Sponsoring Boy States and currently sponsoring 4 Nurses in training. Voiture 1541 reported they have "3" nurses currently in training. Membership: 34 out of 39 paid for 2027. 87% renewals. Installation of Officers was held Wednesday July 22nd 7PM at the Wentzville America Legion with Grand Chef Passe Robert Phillips as installing officer. Voted to sponsor a golf hole for the St. Charles County Military Order of the Devil Dogs pound 086. Proceed from the event go towards various children's charities. 2027 Box Car cards and pins have all been paid for and distributed. The Locale History book won 1st place at Promenade Nationale. Voyageur Jerry Hoeft was honored to attend the Greater St. Louis Honor Flight in September. Chef de Gare Eugene Vaucher was part of the Honor Guard and Al Schultz represented the Locale welcoming Jerry back from Washington DC. V1541 along with Salon #771, will host their annual Christmas Party on Wednesday December 16th at the Wentzville American Legion. Doors open at 6PM

Grand Medicine – Would like to know how many PG's will be attending the Spring Wreck.

Grand Historien. If you have any pictures when Grand Chef attends events. Please send them so I can consolidate for Scrapbook. Need to submit Scrapbook since no Grandes submitted any last year. Want to submit one for Grande du Missouri next year.

Grand Directeur Americanism – Please keep track of your hours for you Annual Report.

Grand Directeur Nurses Training Kevin Johnson recognized Voiture 333 for their submission of the Anderson Award and their great Nurses Training Program. Will honor the Nurse of the Year at the Banquet.

Grand Aumonier. Asked for a Moment of Silence for our recent falling Voyageurs. There have been several Voyageurs lost – and wanted to mention

Grand Directeur Carville Star. Not present.

Grand Publiste – Not present.

Grand Directeur POW/MIA – Stated that if any Voiture wants POW/MIA pins to let him know and he will get them ordered.

Grand Directeur Special Awards. Wade Mano stated he attended the LOY presentation at the 107th Promenade Nationale in Gettysburg, PA. Looking forward to submissions of LOY / COY this year. Packet submitted was very impressive and a good example for future submission.

Grand Directeur VAVs. Chip Berkley stated that VA is restructuring – stressed the importance of tracking hours for yearly submission.

Grand Directeur Youth Sports. Nationale has seen fit to bestow upon Hallie Williams the position of Sous Directeur of Youth Sports – he offered a notion that the Grand Chef de Gare Ben Sargent appoint Hallie Williams as the Grand Directeur of Youth Sports.

Time and Place Committee:

Grand Cheminot Report for Time and Place Committee October 16, 2026

2027 Spring Cheminot and Wreck
Time: March 19-21 2027
Place: Holiday Inn Airport Earth City, MO
Hotel Rate: $144 (plus tax & Fees) per night Double Occupancy – includes Breakfast
Registration Fee: $15.00
Banquet: $ 45.00

Central States Promenade 2027
Time: TBD (April 2027) – Flyer will be sent out once received
Place: Oklahoma City, OK
Hotel: TBD
Registration Fee: TBD
Banquet: TBD

Grande Cheminot & Promenade
Time: June 19-21 2027
Place: Holiday Inn Airport Earth City, MO
Hotel Rate: $144 (plus tax) per night.
Registration Fee: $15.00
Banquet Fee: $45.00

108th Promenade Nationale & 64th Rendezvous Nationale
Time: September 13 -18 2027
Place: Hyatt Regency Wichita, KS
Hotel Rate: $137 (plus tax) per night. Free Parking
Registration Fee: $30.00 - 35.00 depending when registering
Banquet Fee: $57.00
Website: Kansaspromenade.org

Fall Grande Cheminot & Grand Chef's Homecoming
Time: October 22-23 2027
Place: Holiday Inn Airport Earth City, MO
Hotel Rate: $144 (plus tax) per night.
Registration Fee: $15.00
Banquet Fee: $45.00

MAVO – No Report.

Distinguished Guest Committee – Kevin Johnson stated that the Grande will invite Chef de Chemin de Fer Deb Reynolds to Spring Wreck with Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer as an alternate but expects the Chef de Chemin de Fer to attend based on her current schedule.

Committee Reports from Promenade Nationale:

Kevin Johnson, Ralph Turner and AJ Noonan attended the Nurses Training Committee meeting. Discussed Nurse of the Year criteria. Discussed the importance of Locales to submit separate sheet when submitting for the Anderson Award. Finance report was given – no issues discussed, There is money available in the Boland Trust Fund.

Ben Sargent and Frank Angelo attended the Membership Committee meeting. Working on Super Recruiter award – it has been approved. If a member recruits 4 new members, then they are eligible for the award.

Hallie Williams attended Child Welfare and Youth Sports. Standard proceedings with each meeting – Finance reports given no major issues discusse.,

Chip Berkley attended VAVS Committee / Workshop. Encourage showing up for meeting. Concerns about time being reported properly. Certification letter required to work at the Hospitals. Importance to report your hours of volunteering. Stated he was said to be uncooperative at a recent appointment – Chip – really?

Frank Angelo attended Ritual Committee meeting. The Calvin Klein Ceremony is a stand alone ceremony. Ritual manual is being updated.

John Kramer attended Box Car and Americanism Committee Meetings. No report available at this time.

AJ Noonan attended the Time and Place Committee Meeting. There are no Resolutions submitted for the 2029 Promenade Nationale at this time. There was no unfinished business. New business – discussed 108th Promenade Nationale which will be held in Wichita, KS at the Hyatt Regency. Registration is available on line at Kansaspromenade.org. Dates and information previously discussed.

AJ Noonan attended the Public Relation Committee meeting. Meeting focused on social media exposure utilizing Facebook and other social media platforms to get the 40/8 story out to the Public. Need to focus on our younger Veterans to attract them into the organization. Also discussed Microsoft Publisher which will be phased out. PALS will be Digital only – no more mailings.

AJ Noonan attended the Finance Committee meeting. Audit for 2025-2026 is complete and can reviewed on the Nationale Website under Finance. Revenues decreasing due to lower sales and decline in Membership. Proposed budget submitted. Notion submitted to accept proposed budget and approved. Asset allocation was presented. Return of investment was 10.13%. The Blue Chevaliers is still pending financial and legal documentation.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Nationale Officers from Missouri for 2026-2027 are Kevin Johnson National Directeur Nurses Training, Frank Angelo Directeur Membership, Sous Directeur Nurses Training Ralph Turner, Sous Directeur Youth Sports Hallie Williams, Sous Directeur Carville Star Mike Scruby and AJ Noonan Treasurer Nurses Training and Advisory Committee.

Good of the Grande Voiture / Grand Chef de Gare Passe – Ralph Turner recommended that Hallie Williams assume the position of Grand Directeur of Youth Sports as mentioned before. The Grand Chef will make that appointment. Ralph you are off the hook!!! Thanks Hallie.

Grand Conducteur Janice Hartley stated she received $126 in fines. Additional fines were collected during Banquet for a total of $146.00

Distinguished Guest - None

Grand Chef de Gare Ben Sargent closed the Fall Grand Cheminot in the proper manner at 2:38 PM.

Submitted by,
A.J.Noonan
Grand Correspondant

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Ritual meeting that took place at the Promenade Nationale.

Key items discussed include:

1. Calvin Kane Memorial Service: This is a stand-alone service. It can be held before or after a Promenade, but not during a Promenade or other service.
2. Wearing of the Chapeau: A motion was offered and approved to change our Ritual from "Voyageurs may wear past Officer Chapeau of the Highest office held" to "Voyageurs may wear the past Officer blue Chapeau of the highest office held at the Locale, Grand, or Nationale level of their choice with the appropriate color braid."
3. Preamble in Opening Ceremony: After discussion concerning the Preamble in the Opening Ceremony of a Promenade (Chapter 1), the committee agreed to note that the Preamble is optional. If not recited, directions will be to go directly to Chef de Gare: "The Aumonier will invoke the Divine Blessing."
4. Altar Cloth: A motion was made and seconded to add "draped or spread over the Altar." Following discussion and a vote, the motion failed.

GRANDE VOITURE DU MISSOURI

Grande Spring Wreck & Cheminot
March 19 to March 21, 2027
Holiday Inn St. Louis Airport West
3400 Rider Trail South
St. Louis, MO 63045
314-291-6800

Room Rate $144.00 (+occupancy tax) per night breakfast included
No sales tax if reservations made under the 40 & 8
PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. DEADLINE FEBRUARY 26
Handicapped Rooms Available
Make your reservations directly with Holiday Inn
Mention 40&8 Honor Society for special rate when making reservations

Friday March 19th, 2027
Registration 1500 - 1800
Hospitality Room 1500 - ???
2027-2028 Officer Slating Meeting 1900

Saturday March 20th, 2027
Registration 0900 – 1130
Spring Wreck Activities 0800-1130
Lunch 1130 - 1300
Grande Promenade/Spring Wreck 1300 – 1600
Grand Chef de Gare Passé Social Hour 1700-1800 Hospitality Room
Social Hour 1800 Cash Bar
Banquet 1900
Hospitality Room will be open after the Banquet

Sunday March 21sth, 2027
Grande Cheminot 0900

To register for the Grande Spring Wreck and Cheminot. Make check payable to "Voiture 1541"

Send to:
Allen Schultz
1427 Summergate Pkwy
St. Charles, MO 63303

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

Title _____**Voiture** _____

Banquet / Person: $45.00 X No. Guest_____ = _____**(DEADLINE IS MARCH 5TH)**

Meal choice: Prime Rib_____**or Grilled Salmon**_____

Registration Fee $15.00 (Voyageurs Only) _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Membership
Grande du Missouri

29-Oct-26

Voiture Name	Voiture	2026 Year End	2027 To-date	2026 End Total	Sh/Ov Quota	% of Quota
HEART OF AMERICA	3	15	15	27	-12	55.56%
SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS	38	42	1	42	-41	2.38%
JESSE JAMES	130	34	34	41	-7	82.93%
HEART OF MISSOURI	292	17	4	17	-13	23.53%
STATE FAIR	333	68	93	99	-6	93.94%
GATEWAY	448	30	33	58	-25	56.90%
CENTRAL OZARK	460	19	50	56	-6	89.29%
KICKAPOO	760	13	1	24	-23	4.17%
MARK TWAIN	966	2	2	2	0	100.00%
CAPITAL	1292	17	21	62	-41	33.87%
MINERAL AREA	1321	13	1	41	-40	2.44%
NEUF COMPT	1379	22	19	26	-7	73.08%
ATCHISON NODAWAY HOLT Counties	1402	0	0	11	-11	0.00%
LAKE OF THE OZARK	1403	3	3	3	0	100.00%
TWO RIVERS	1541	34	34	39	-5	87.18%
Missouri Total		**329**	**311**	**548**	**-237**	**56.75%**

