



Communiqué



La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux

Grande Voiture du Missouri

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



Greetings Voyageurs,
I hope this message
finds everyone well. I
hope everyone survived

the incredibly hot and dry month of September. I traveled to Warrensburg Missouri on the 12th of September to attend the Homecoming of Department of Missouri American Legion Commander Alex Slocum. It was an interesting event with a Hawaii theme and if you know me you know any time I don't have to put on a jacket and tie, I am all in. I was able to present him with a gift on behalf of Grande Du Missouri and passed on our Voiture's greetings and support for the year. I attended the 107 th Promenade Nationale 22-26 September in Gettysburg PA during which Grande Du Missouri was presented several Grande and Locale awards earned under Grande Chef de Gare Passe Rose Noonan. Those awards will be passed on to the Grande and Locales during our Grande Cheminot on 17 October. The most memorable Award during Nationale was Grande du Missouri's Law Officer of the Year Tyler

Griffin being presented with the award of the Nationale Law Officer of the Year. Congratulations to Voiture 1321 for your nominee and I must say, as a past Grand Directuer of Special Awards, that nomination packet was the best I have seen. All in all, Promenade Nationale was a successful event, I thank all who attended for your time in representing the Grande Voiture and I encourage all who attended committee meetings to present any notes taken to the Grande Voiture during Fall Cheminot. I will be traveling to American Legion post 5 in Jeff City on the 10th of September to attend the American Legion Auxiliary Presidents Homecoming and then my next event is Grande Cheminot and Homecoming 16-17 October. According to my rooming list I have around 28 rooms filled and 34 attendees' however, I only have 14 registrations. Although the cut-off for registration is 30 October, if you have not mailed a registration, please reach out to me by e-mail and confirm you are coming. You can pay at the registration desk when you register. I just want to ensure I have enough meals for the banquet. I have to have a pretty solid number of meals for the motel by 8 October. On to membership, the

Grande finished up at 91.95% (48 short of quota). It is time to start working on renewals for 2027 and find new

Voyageurs to fill the shoes of those lost. 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.

V/R

Ben Sargent

Grand Chef de Gare

573-528-6110

msgsgt2@yahoo.com



Sous Grand Correspondants Notes:

Ralph Turner has Youth Sports Pins for sale. He will have them at the at Homecoming. They are \$4.00. You can pay on site or take on consignment.

Another year is upon us and elections have been completed for Grande du Missouri so it is time to hear from our new dircteurs. The articles for the next Grande du Missouri Communiqué will be due by October 31st 2026. POW/MIA, Carville Star, and Child Welfare

Also if you are new to Grande du Missouri and have not sent me your e-mail address, please send it to me so I can add it to my Grande du Missouri e-mail list.

POW/MIA PROGRAM

The purpose of the POW/MIA Progm is to raise funds in HONOR of the Servicemen and Women who were Prisoners of War, or considered Missing in Action while serving in the Defense of the United States of America, or its Allies during times of armed conflict. Merchandise is sold, and monies are collected and donated to

facilitate the formation and continuance of a Scholarship Trust Fund for the direct descendants of VERIFIABLE POW/MIA Servicemen and Women. These Scholarships are limited to the veteran, the Spouse of the veteran, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren of the veteran. As we enter the final period of time prior to our Nationale Prom in Gettysburg, it is our last chance to compile our final numbers of hours, miles and dollars that we have volunteered for our various functions. Our annual Consolidated Reports accomplish the task of compiling all of the information for us. These reports let us know what we have dedicated and accomplished for our programs. For these reports to be accounted for, they should be mailed to their respective Directeurs for compilation of all of our Voiures/Grandes to ensure that everyone who dedicated time, miles, and monies is accounted for. These reports should be forwarded to the Directeurs by mid July so they have time to assemble everyones numbers. If your Grande does not have their respective Grande Prom till mid to late July, your report is still needed by the Nationale Directeur early anyway. The Grande Directeur should make a copy of their report for presentation at the Grande while sending a complete copy to the Nationale Directeur by the required time. POW/MIA has annual Awards that may be given out at Nationale. These are based upon Voiture Membeship as well as the Grande Membership. Therefore, pin sales, donations, and contributions need to be reported by Voture and Gande Membership numbers. It is incumbent upon everyone to support all of our programs through acquisition of the merchandise that is available each and every year. Take the time to review each program within the 40 et 8, and when your program Directeur asks for your support, please do so by including the monies collected through merchandise sales and contributions. DO NOT FORGET OUR FOUR GOALS: A. Raising our POW/MIA Survivor Scholarship Fund Awareness. B. Merchandise Sales. C. Consolidated Reports. D. POW/MIA Pin Design. For La Societe, Steven W. Slegers, Nationale Directeur POW/MIA

VAVS

Student Volunteers & Education On the VA home front, our summer student volunteer programs are wrapping up another successful year. These young volunteers — many of whom will become future doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals — have gained invaluable insight into the lives and needs of veterans. For some, this experience has removed long-held misconceptions. For others, it has sparked a calling. The discipline, maturity, and compassion we see in these students after just one summer is remarkable. Their growth is a testament to the guidance provided by our CDCE teams and facility staff nationwide. This education is indelible and profound, and it strengthens the future of veteran care.

Volunteer Hours & Reporting — A Necessary Reminder I must again emphasize the importance of recording and reporting volunteer hours. Please:

- Keep a personal calendar or tracker.
- Report your hours promptly. Encourage others in your Grande to do the same.

Some Grandes have been consistent, while others remain slow to report. Even if your Grand has not submitted a report, your individual hours count, and that still moves us closer to the 100% participation we are striving for. Every hour matters. Every report matters. Please continue to help us maintain accurate records.

Volunteer Certifications & Onboarding Challenges Certifications to become registered and badged volunteers have been a major challenge this year. Onboarding delays have been reported across the country, and I know this has caused frustration for many prospective volunteers. I wish I had a magic wand to speed up the process, but I ask for patience and persistence. These growing pains are temporary, and your commitment is deeply appreciated.

Growing Pains in Communication & Technology Over the past three years, I've had to learn several different email systems, and this year many messages ended up in junk folders even though the analytics showed them as "delivered" — a metric I didn't realize included spam. The new system does seem promising, and I appreciate your patience as everything settles. As always, I ask our Grandes — Correspondants and VAVS Directeurs — to share the newsletter with their Voyageurs and Dames. If

you have sent me anything in the past month or so and I have not responded, please send it again. I have been working diligently on a volunteer handbook for La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (40&8), and it is nearly ready for publication. We are close to having a complete account of who our volunteers are, where they serve, and what their needs are. Every facility has its own cadence — a distinct blend of staff, veterans, volunteers, resources, and challenges. As we learn these nuances, we gain a clearer understanding of how each volunteer contributes to the mission and how we can stand beside them when support is needed. Your questions and suggestions have been relayed to Nationale leadership, and I am optimistic about the growth ahead. Truly, monumental progress is within reach.

Promenade Nationale A reminder that Promenade Nationale is just around the corner, once again in Gettysburg, PA. Visit www.fortyandeight.org to register. Early bird rates have passed, but there is still time to secure your spot. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Closing Appreciation In closing, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the forward-thinking Sous National Area Directeurs I had the privilege to work with this year, and for the dedicated facility staff who support our volunteers and veterans every day. Your professionalism, positivity, and partnership have made this year meaningful and productive. Thank you — each of you — for your service, your compassion, and your unwavering commitment to veterans. As we celebrate 250 years of American independence, may we continue to honor those who have carried its legacy forward.

I just wanted to review a few things for you to keep mind as we begin the new year and approach Nationale Promenade. I received a number of reimbursement request which helps us widening our network of assisting athletes using National program resources. Unfortunately, a number of the request received were missing either required information and/or signatures. I held those requests until all requirement were meet which delays the time of your request and receiving your check. One request was very disappointing for both me, the Locale and it's Grandes when no Youth Sports Coins & Pins they had missed purchased from the Nationale Program that Year. The good news is, they know and have a plan for

this coming year. One more item about requesting reimbursement, we want to assist athletes that need assistance and we want those dollars to reach as many youths as possible. Yes, each Grande is entitled to seek up to \$1000 reimbursement and hopeful your Grande will have more than one Locale requesting but please be mindful it takes selling 250 pin or 100 coin or a combination of and for \$500 it's 125 pins or 50 coins. The National Youth Sports program works because we can all participate in the program to keep it strong and active for the youths in our communities and the communities of our fellow Voyageurs and Dames. If you wish to order 2026-27 Hockey Coins and Pin please call or email or see us at Nationale Promenade. Look for the table with a red, white and blue Igloo cooler on wheels with all the fixing for a youth sports game/ event we're raffling. My address and email Lonnie Haynes 506 Mill St. Leslie, MI 49251 517-652-4847 carrie.haynes@ymail.com

SPECIAL ADWARDS

The Special Awards Program is about more than presenting plaques or certificates, it is about telling our story. By recognizing excellence, we celebrate the values of Americanism, community service, and dedication that define the 40&8. Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations, served as judges, promoted the program, and helped make this year's awards a success. Your efforts ensure that the incredible work of our members and community partners receives the recognition it deserves. I encourage every Grande and Locale to begin thinking now about next year's nominations already. There are countless deserving individuals and organizations waiting to be recognized, and together we can make next year's program even stronger. Be sure to visit our table at Promenade Nationale for some example packets that our Sous Directeurs created to guide you in your next submissions. It is our goal to increase our program visibility and demonstrate the high quality that helps make a nomination packet a strong contender. You will find Mildred, Sean, John, Earnie, Lawson, Ben or me there to share comradery with and we are all looking forward to it! Thank you for your continued dedication

to La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux.
Yours in service and fraternity, Nick Weyers Directeur of Special Awards

RITUAL

Grande Directeurs Ritual, In July we are completing and sending in our Communique reports. Voitures with Wrecking Crews are eligible for the G Pat Beamer Award. This award is earned by the Voiture Locale that conducts the greatest number of wrecks this year. Grands must submit the Voiture Locale report with their Grande Voiture Report. Voiture Locals are welcome to apply for the Joel Bunch Award which is awarded to the Voiture Locale displaying the highest degree of Ritual Excellence for the year. Grands must submit the Voiture Locale report with their Grande Voiture Report. Voiture Locales and Grand Voitures are encouraged to participate in the National Color Guard Competition which will be held at Promenade Nationale in September. Check the Nationale Website for the Color Guard form. At Promenade Nationale, the National Ritual Committee will meet to discuss Ritual Business. Note: Voyageurs are instructed in the Third Degree of a Wreck how to offer a notion. After the notion is offered, seconded and properly discussed, the vote will be called. Enjoy this, Independence Day Holiday. Looking forward to seeing Voyageurs at Promenade Nationale in Gettysburg, PA

MEMBERSHIP

Voyageur that is part of the Grande Membership Team who might only have a chance to attempt to get a hold of that Voyageur once or maybe twice in the Membership year. Since the new Membership cards are out for the 2026 – 2027 Membership year, I would highly encourage the Locale Membership Team to have all the Voyageurs in that Locale to verify their contact information and submit any new information to Nationale to be updated. We need to start submitting the new membership cards to Nationale. Before you know it, we will be at Promenade Nationale then it will be the Holiday season, we all live busy lives so when you see that Voyageur attempt to get them to renew. Encourage the Paid Life Membership program, which even has a payment plan (all the information is on the Nationale Page {fortyandeight.org}). Our current Membership stands at 13,419 paid members with a 94.71% of our goal. Every Voyageur is part of the Membership Team,.



GRANDE VOITURE DU MISSOURI
Grande Cheminot and Homecoming
October 16 to October 17, 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
Cut off for reservations at Group rate is 21 September, 2026

Friday October 16, 2026

Registration 1500 – 1800 Kalahari/Mojave Lobby
Hospitality Room 1500 - ??? Kalahari / Mojave Room
Past Chefs meeting 1800-UTC Arabian Room

Saturday October 17, 2026

Registration 0900 – 1200
Lunch 1130 – 1300 Kalahari / Mojave Room (Hospitality Room)
Grande Promenade 1300 – 1600 Sahara Room
Grand Chef de Gare Passé Social Hour 1700-1800 Kalahari / Mojave Room (Hospitality Room)
Social Hour 1800 Cash Bar Fiji Ballroom
Banquet 1900-UTC Fiji Ballroom
Hospitality Room will be open after the Banquet

Sunday October 18, 2026

Have a safe trip home.

To register for the Grande Promenade and Cheminot. Make check payable to Voiture 460
Please have registrations sent in by 01 October 2026

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

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Title _____ Voiture _____

Banquet / Person: \$42.00 X No. Guest _____ = _____

Registration Fee \$15.00 (Voyageurs Only) _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Membership Grande du Missouri

1-Oct-26

Voiture Name	Voiture	2025 Year End	2026 To-date	2025 Quota	Sh/Ov Quota	% of Quota
HEART OF AMERICA	3	32	27	32	-5	84.38%
SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS	38	44	42	44	-2	95.45%
JESSE JAMES	130	40	41	40	1	102.50%
HEART OF MISSOURI	292	23	17	23	-6	73.91%
STATE FAIR	333	100	99	100	-1	99.00%
GATEWAY	448	61	58	61	-3	95.08%
CENTRAL OZARK	460	56	56	56	0	100.00%
KICKAPOO	760	24	24	24	0	100.00%
MARK TWAIN	966	2	2	2	0	100.00%
CAPITAL	1292	72	62	72	-10	86.11%
MINERAL AREA	1321	47	41	47	-6	87.23%
NEUF COMPT	1379	32	26	32	-6	81.25%
ATCHISON NODAWAY HOLT Counties	1402	14	11	14	-3	78.57%
LAKE OF THE OZARK	1403	4	3	4	-1	75.00%
TWO RIVERS	1541	45	39	45	-6	86.67%
Missouri Total		596	548	596	-48	91.95%

