



Communiqué



La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux

Grande Voiture du Missouri

October-November 2024 - Grand Chef de Gare Ron Leverenz

L'Editeur Robert C. Emery



Greetings Voyagers,

I would like to "THANK" everyone for the wonderful gifts and enjoyment I had at my Homecoming last month. It was one of the warmest and welcoming feelings to have Friends and Family, which I feel you all are family there to enjoy a weekend together. It was also the last event I had to do registration... WHEW... I will also mention the price of the dinner will be going up since the prices at the hotel have changed as well. It is not a large increase but enough to cover the inflation and gratuities the hotel has put into place. But don't get discouraged because it is a nice dinner and a splendid event to have us all sitting eating and visiting with one and other.

I need to put a few: "THANK YOU'S" out there and hope I do not miss anyone. Ralph Turner and his wife for showing up at our head table as our new Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer as a Nationale officer guest. Kevin Johnson

for a WONDERFUL as always job as being my Master of Ceremonies, and Frank Angelo for being the Conductor at the Promenade and keeping good order and raising a nice amount of fine money for our new Grande hanging pennant we are purchasing to have one in the west and east of Missouri. Also a BIG thank you out to the AJ and Rose Noonan for setting up and maintaining an excellent and quite tasty hospitality room and bar.

Many others I am not hitting but I thank you all for even the simplest of help and up the the largest gestures of making the weekend run smoothly.

Congratulations to Robert Emery of becoming our Honorary Grand Chef de Gare for 2025 as well. Years of sacrifice and hard work made this choice among us easy to approve. I believe he is the first since the 2016 year to have this Honor. Only 5 members before him back to 1923 have ever held this title. Each have served it with pride and utmost dignity as I know Robert will and always has. I am honored myself to share this year date of commanding the Grande with such a distinguished and hard working voyager such as him

Due to the Holiday season approaching soon I would like to say Happy Holidays to each of our voyagers and their families. I hope the season

brings smiles and warmth to each of you in your own way. My thoughts and prayers are with you all for safe travel and health until we meet again for the Grande Spring Wreck.

Now that I said "Grande Spring Wreck" I have to touch on the subject of Membership. Robert recently released the National numbers and we are off to a good start. But as we all know, we can only become bigger with the efforts of all voyagers reaching out to people they know and others to bring in the worthy choices to our organization. It is invitation only and that means WE have to invite. They just don't show up on our door. We select those PG's that deserve the title of "Honor Veterans Society" Voyagers. So reach out this holiday season and bring us a bounty of choices we can dress up. Parade around and see if they can make it up the steps to earn that Voyageur Militaire bar.

Frank Angelo is sending out great updates on the numbers as well and if you need a bit of help calling or sending renewals, I believe either one of us would be happy to help. A Nationale Directeur of Membership and a Grand Chef of du Missouri could make that difference if we call and say we enjoy them as a member.

Once again I thank you all for the efforts you have put into each of your Voitures and the charities that we support. A lot of help is getting out there to people that need it and we should utilize more of these funds that national has to offer us at the Grande level. Have a wonderful Holiday season and Stay safe until we meet again. Feel free to reach out anytime if you need anything. Not just programs but personally if you have a Voyager in need or a bit of help, let's make sure he or she gets that. "Thank You" again for your trusted year of having me as your Grand Chef de Gare. God Bless.

Ron Leverenz
Ronleverenz@gmail.com
Grand Chef de Gare du Missouri.

Welcome to the family !!!!!

Hello Voyagers and Dames,
I just wanted to introduce myself. I am Brittany Leverenz, the President of Missouri's new Cabane 760. I want to thank everyone for their support for me to get this started and the Cabane Nationale for all their help in this process.

I want every voyager to know my group of Dame are here to help in anyway.

Whether is be at your Local Voyager or even the Grande. I see big things coming now that we are official and have a charter. I am so excited and beyond blessed to have this opportunity to not only serve all of you but to also help with our community. Once again thank you for all your support and feel free to reach out at anytime for any help you may need.

Thank you,



Brittany Leverenz
Cabane 760 President
brittany8190@gmail.com

Fall Grande Cheminot, October 5, 2024
Oasis Convention Center, Springfield, Missouri

With a rap of the gavel, Grand Chef de Gare Ron Leverenz, 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 Chef de Gare Ron Leverenz recognized Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Ralph Turner and asked if he would like to sit at the head table which he respectfully declined.

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 eleven were present. We had a quorum. Absent were Voitures 38, 966, 1402 and 1403.

Grand Avocat Rich Heigert said we will follow the Promenade Voiture Nationale rules and then Roberts's rules of order.

Notion offered by Kevin Johnson, seconded by Ralph Turner, 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 5, 2024, at 9:00am. Attendees include Chef de Gare Ron Leverenz, Chef de Train Rose Noonan, Commissaire Intendant Ben Sargent, Correspondant AJ Noonan, Cheminot-at-Large Terry Lanning, Ralph Turner and Kevin Johnson. Additional attendees were Chef de Gare Passe Rich Heigert, Frank Angelo, Ed Jones, Dave Bexten, Hallie Williams, Janice Hartley, Calvin Bumgarner and Grand Director Nurses Training Dan Levasseur. The budget was presented by Ben Sargent. Kevin Johnson offered a notion to accept the budget as printed, seconded by Rich Heigert ... passed. Discussed what fundraiser we should have at the Spring Wreck. Decided to do Cornhole with Chip Berkley and Frank Angelo in charge. AJ Noonan will bring two cornhole sets/boards. 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 Paul Emmert Sr. to the Grande Cheminot and Wreck with Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Ralph Turner as alternate. Grand Correspondant AJ Noonan will send Voiture Nationale Visit Request. The Executive Committee agreed to charge an additional five dollars for the banquet (\$40 total) and Registration Fee (\$15 total) to prevent out of pocket expense to Chef de Train / Chef de Gare contractual requirements. Rich Heigert offered a notion second by Terry Lanning – passed. The Executive Committee closed the meeting at 9:25am. Notion by Mike Scruby to approve the minutes seconded by Robert Emery and passed.

Grand Correspondant AJ Noonan stated the new yearbooks are in the back as well as travel chits voucher for Grande Officers. There were no Resolution presented.

Grand Commissaire Intendant, Ben Sargent, read the proposed budget and finance report. The current balance of Now Checking Account as of 05 Oct 2024 is \$3,560.49. Notions offered by Kevin to accept the budget and the finance report, second by Ralph Turner... passed.

Grand Chef de Train Rose Noonan had two Sous Chef de Trains present. Sous Grand Chef de Train's Ted McCart (Voiture 460, 760 and 1321) and Lora Berkley (Voiture 292,333,1292 and1403) presented their membership numbers for their respective Voitures. Goal is to achieve 100% membership again this year.

Cheminot Nationale Halle Williams said the password did not change for the upcoming year. Awards from Promenade Nationale were presented by Chef de Gare Ron Leverenz. Recognition to Grande du Missouri for Child Welfare and Voiture 130 for excellence in Nurses Training. Alternate Cheminot Nationale Mike Scruby had no report.

Highlights of the Grand Cheminot reports are: Voiture 130 reported on current Voiture Activities to include participating in 10 funerals, flag ceremony for the third-grade class at Mini Cline Elementary discussing history of the flag, proper etiquette; posted the Colors at the Grand Opening of Svannah High School refurbished football field; sponsoring 2 Boy Scout Troops, Memorial Day Services, Veterans Home Activities. Membership is currently at 69%. Voiture 292 one Nurses Training Scholarship for \$1000, 21 paid members so far this year, Fisher House activities scheduled for 19 Oct 2024. Voiture 333 purchased trophies for Smith Cotton Army JROTC and Cadet of the Month awards for \$4100; participated in Sedalia 4th of July Parade and opening day State Fair Parade; Boxcar was repainted prior to State Fair; Voyageurs were present each day; total of 52 paid members to date which includes 5 new Voyageurs; Chef de Gare Cliff McBride was Master of Ceremonies at opening and closing ceremonies during State Fair; presented a \$1000 check to the Boys and Girls Club. Voiture 448 meets at Post 208 in Ballwin, Mo on the 4th Tuesday, Christmas Party is scheduled for December; currently sponsoring one Nurses Training Scholarship; participating in the Veterans Day Parade on 9 November in St. Louis with Marygrove Children's Home also participating. Voiture 460 activities include

monthly Promenade, Cemetery flag placement and sponsoring three Nurses. Raffle is ongoing to raise money for the program fund. Voiture 1292 conducted a Golf Tournament raising over \$17,000, conducting monthly breakfast; received a Grant for \$10,000 to be used for Nurses Training; planning a Special Needs Christmas party and sponsoring 6 Nurses. Voiture 1321 conducts BBQ fundraiser which sponsors 5 nurses and 1 boy for Missouri Boy State; conducted bingo at Jefferson Barracks Hospital for 55 patients. Voiture 1541 has 3 nurses in training, currently at 80% Membership, 36 paid members; lost 2 Voyageurs; Christmas party at Wentzville Post on December 18th, Night at Races will be March 1, 2025, at St. Charles Legion Post 313.

Grand Directeur Nurses Training Dan Levasseur recognized Kevin Johnson and Ralph Turner and looks forward to working with them this year.

Grand Drapeau East Janice Hartley discussed the need to purchase a second banner since the missing one has still not been found. Will address under new business.

Grand Conducteur Frank Angelo. Stated as we get closer to Spring Wreck. Send list of PG's so we can plan accordingly.

Grand Directeur Boxcar. John Kramer was not present, but Grand Correspondant provided his report. He has 50 pins available to purchase. Voitures can contact him.

Grand Directeur Carville Star. Roger Wallenberg stated he had pins for sale.

Grand Directeur POW/MIA Frank Angelo attended POW/MIA committee meeting at Promenade Nationale. If you want pins let him know – does not have any on consignment but will if Voitures are interested.

Grand Chairman VAVS Chip Berkley. Thanked everyone who sent end of year report. Only 14 Grandes submitted report to Voiture Nationale. Good reporting by Locales this year.

Time and Place Committee: Kevin Johnson said the Spring Wreck and Grand Cheminot will be April 4-6, 2025, at Oasis Hotel Springfield room rates will be \$114 plus tax. The registration fee is \$15 and banquet costs \$40. Grand Promenade and Cheminot 2025 will be July 4-6, 2025, same hotel and rate (\$114) and the Grand Chef's Homecoming and Cheminot will be October 10-11, 2025, at same hotel and rate. Central States Promenade will be held on May 8-10, 2025, in Springfield MO. Room rates are \$114 single and double occupancy. Registration fee increased to \$95 and the Luncheon cost will be \$30. 106th Promenade Nationale will be in Gettysburg, PA September 23-27, 2025. Room rates are \$120; registration is \$30 before June 1st, 2025; \$35 afterwards. The banquet is \$45.

Grand Correspondant failed to call on Kevin Johnson for the Executive Committee Advisory & Protocol. Will be fixed next time. Duly noted. Fine was paid.

Committee Reports from Promenade Nationale:

Ralph Turner attended the Nurses Training Committee meeting. Pin sales were approximately \$4,000. Approved \$1000 for Nurse of the Year donation. Approved \$8,000 to go to the Boland Trust. Kevin Johnson appointed the National Directeur of Nurses Training and Ralph Turner appointed as the Treasurer. Kevin Johnson said a new scholarship 2-\$1000 scholarship for Sophomores. Criteria is being developed and he is working with his Sous to present next year. Grande du Missouri received Honorable Mention. Voiture 130 received the Anderson Award for Nurses Training. Voiture 1292 recognized also.

Kevin Johnson mentioned Ritual and Joel Bunch Award. None were received at Nationale.

Frank Angelo attended the Membership Committee meeting. Working on Super Recruiter award. Tabled until next year. Also attend POW/MIA Committee meeting. A total of 12 Scholarships were awarded. Over 62,891 volunteer hours and 432, 625 miles traveled. Total monetary value over \$678, 000. Voted and approved the scholarships change from Great Grandchild to Great-great Grandchild. Finance Committee: new budget provided. Old building was sold. New building paid in full.

Hallie Williams attended Child Welfare. Has 40 pins available. 30 pins already sold.

Chip Berkley attended VAVS Committee. Only 14 Grandes reported this year. Ritual Committee – no change to password. Discussed possible changes to the Ritual Manual.

Mike Scruby attended Carville Star Committee meeting. 30 Voyageurs attended. Remodeled the museum. Hanson Disease was discussed. 150-200K reported cases in 145 countries.

Lora Berkley attended Youth Sports Committee. Pins are available for \$4 each. Coins are \$10. Only 11 Grandes submitted reports this past year. Reporting was poor. 1095 teams were supported last year.

John Kramer attended Box Car, Historian, Americanism and Voiture Activities Committee meetings. Box Car: 36 members in attendance. 12 reports were received this year. Missouri did not win any awards this past year. Historian: Only one book was received. Ben Sargent stated the Committee voted to add a Pin Class beside history book. Pins can be on a vest or mounted on a display board. Americanism: Main topic discussed was Flags for First Graders. Voiture Activities: 76 Voyageurs and 13 Grands represented. Voyageurs participating: 18,414, 7852 events; total dollars \$766,453 and mileage 1,053,223. Also discussed rolling stock is

any vehicle that has 40 and 8 identification and transports 2 or more Voyageurs participating in Parades or other activities.

Ben Sargent attended Special Awards. If a city is submitted City of the Year (COY) and does not win. Must wait three years to resubmit. Law Officer of the Year (LOY) submissions. If individual doesn't win at Grande at least recognize at the Locale Level.

Kevin Johnson mentioned that Voiture Activities is no longer a National Program. The Blue Chevaliers was postponed from being added due primarily to financial and legal documentation. Will probably be added next year.

Old Business – Banner has been purchased.

New Business – Nationale Officers from Missouri were Ralph Turner Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer and National Treasurer Nurses Training, Kevin Johnson National Directeur Nurses Training, Frank Angelo Directeur Membership and AJ Noonan Advisory Committee.

Good of the Grande Voiture – Kevin Johnson offered a notion that all fines received will go to the purchase of the second banner. No stand is required, Seconded by Robert Emery. Passed. Grand Conducteur Frank Angelo stated he has received \$93 in fines so far. More possibly at the banquet.

Distinguished Guest Ralph Turner had no words of wisdom for the Grande.

Grand Chef de Gare Ron Leverenz closed the Fall Grand Cheminot in the proper manner at 2:48 PM.

Submitted by,
A.J.Noonan
Grand Correspondant

Sous Grand Correspondant request.

Greetings newly appointed Grand Program Direceurs. Thank You for taking such an important position helping supporting the Forty et Eight and Grande du Missouri.

As the Sous Grand Correspondant I would like to ask you to provide me with an article about your program to place in the Grande Communique.

Here is the list of Program Directurs for 2025 membership year:

Grand Direceur Americanism - Robert C. Emery (V#1379)

Grand Direceur BOXCAR – John Kramerr (V#1321)

Grand Direceur Carville Star – Roger Wallenberg (V#760)

Grand Direceur Child Welfare – Hallie Williams (V#448)

Grand Direceur Nurses Training – Dan 'FRENCHIE' Levasseur (V#1292)

Grand Direceur POW/MIA – Frank Angelo (V#460)

Grand Direceur Ritual – Duane DeClue (V#1321)

Grand Direceur Special Awards – Wade Mano (V#460)

Grand DireceurVAVS – Thomas 'CHIP' Berkley (V#292)

Grand Direceur Youth Sports – Ann Puck (V#1379)

The La Femmes are a women's organization formed in 1963 for the purpose of supporting the Programs of the Forty and Eight US Military Veterans. (La Societe des Quarante Hommes ET Huit Chevaux).



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 April 4th to April 6th, 2025 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, April 5th, 2025, at 9:00AM in Springfield.

The Spring Grande Cheminot will be held on Sunday April 6th, 2025 at 9:00 AM at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center.

There will be a Central States Meeting followed by an Executive Board 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

Ron Leverenz
Grand Chef de Gare



GRANDE VOITURE DU MISSOURI
Grande Spring Wreck & ChemInot
April 04 to April 06, 2025
Oasis Hotel and Convention Center
2546 North Glenstone Ave.
Springfield, MO 65803
417-866-5253

Room Rate \$114.00 (+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 April 4th, 2025
 Registration 1500 - 1800
 Hospitality Room 1500 - ??? Kalahari / Mojave Room
 Central States Meeting 1800
 2025-2026 Officer Slating Meeting 1900

Saturday April 5th, 2025
 Registration 0900 – 1200
 Spring Wreck Activities 0800-1130
 Lunch 1130 - 1300
 Grande Promenade/Spring Wreck 1300 – 1600 Sahara Room
 Grand Chef de Gare Passé Social Hour 1700-1800 Hospitality Room
 Social Hour 1800 Cash Bar
 Banquet 1900 Fiji Ballroom
 Hospitality Room will be open after the Banquet

Sunday April 6th, 2025
 Grande Cheminot 0900 Sahara Room

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

Send to:
A.J. Noonan
20165 Highway 28
Dixon, MO 65459

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 Voiture du Missouri

24-Oct-24

	Voiture	2024 Year End	2025 To-date	2024 Quota	Sh/Ov Quota	% of Quota
HEART OF AMERICA	3	17	16	33	-17	48.48%
SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS	38	49	44	49	-5	89.80%
JESSE JAMES	130	28	11	41	-30	26.83%
HEART OF MISSOURI	292	27	5	27	-22	18.52%
STATE FAIR	333	99	46	105	-59	43.81%
GATEWAY	448	28	23	63	-40	36.51%
CENTRAL OZARK	460	39	31	59	-28	52.54%
KICKAPOO	760	10	10	23	-13	43.48%
MARK TWAIN	966	2	2	2	0	100.00%
CAPITAL	1292	58	44	74	-30	59.46%
MINERAL AREA	1321	19	1	60	-59	1.67%
Neuf Comtés	1379	19	22	35	-13	62.86%
ATCHISON NODAWAY HOLT Counties	1402	6	1	11	-10	9.09%
LAKE OF THE OZARK	1403	4	4	4	0	100.00%
TWO RIVERS	1541	28	36	47	-11	76.60%
Missouri Total		433	296	633	-337	46.76%

