



Communiqué



La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux

Grande Voiture du Missouri

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



Greetings Voyageurs,

I hope this message finds everyone well. What a busy and interesting month of August it has been. I traveled to Voiture 292 in Ashland MO. for an early evening dinner and installation of officers on the 5th during which I enjoyed some great food, beverage and camaraderie with the Voyageur's in attendance. It was late at night when I arrived home. The very next morning I was back on the road because I was invited by Sou Chef de Chemen de Fir Passe Kevin Johnson to ride along to attend Grande Du Michigan's Grande Promenade, we were accompanied by Sou Chef de Chemin de Fir Passe Ralph Turner. What a fun weekend trip with a stop at Nationale HQs near Indianapolis along the way. They have a very nice building to work out of compared to the old one. Terry, Tammy and Becky gave us the grand tour, and we enjoyed their hospitality very much. While in Michigan, Kevin presented some certificates of appreciation to the Auxiliary of Legion Post 424 for their large contribution to the National Nurses training Program last year. Grande du Michigan was very hospitable and put on a great hospitality room and a beautiful memorial ceremony. We were able to visit Voiture 946's Chateau where they keep Michigan's Merci Box Car. On the evening of the 13th, I was off to Jefferson City for an outstanding dinner of fried chicken, and all the fixing's hosted by Voiture 1292, and I was honored to install their new Chef De Gare and Officers. I want to thank the Grandes Aid De Campe Steve Rossberg for tagging along and taking some pictures during my late-night travels. What fun Voyageur to travel with. On the 20th I was in Sedalia early for a great breakfast, hospitality and installation of Voiture 333 officers and was honored to install the officers of Cabane 333. I

was introduced to the local JROTC Battalion CDR and CSM who did an outstanding briefing on what they do to support V333, the Merci Box Car and had nothing but praise for V333's support to the JROTC program.

I thank Chef De Gare McBride for providing a personal tour of the Missouri Merci Box Car. V333 has done a great job restoring and maintaining this great piece of history and they have great plans for future improvements to protect it. Currently all I have on the schedule for September is Legion Department of Missouri Commanders homecoming on the 12th and Nationale Promenade in Gettysburg PA. 22 through 26 September. I encourage all Grande Voyageurs who attend National Promenade that week to sit in on some committee meetings and provide any pertinent information back to the grande during October's Grande Promenade and Homecoming. I also extend an invitation to my Hospitality room one evening that week, time and place TBD, more to follow. On to Membership, the Grande finished up at 91.95% as of 13 August (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.

V/R

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



National Box Car Association

The National Box Car Association was founded in 1965 as an independent association within La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux with the primary purpose of preserving the Box Car as the symbol of the Forty & Eight. Over time Locomotives were added to the symbolic rolling stock of the NBCA since they were connected and needed to haul the Box Cars.

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 HOBO Clowns and bands, etc.

Also, a monetary donation is made to the host city's 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.

Funding comes through the sales of Box Car Pins, Crew Cards, and Associate Cards, Patches, Train Whistles, and Box Car Coins. Crew cards are sold only to Voyageurs Militaire or members of the 40&8 while Pins and Associate cards can be sold to anyone wishing to donate to the NBCA.

BOX CAR HISTORY

The "Friendship Train", as it was called, left Los Angeles on November 7, 1947 with eight empty boxcars. The response from across America was overwhelming and eleven days later on November 18, 1947 the "Friendship Train" arrived in New York with some 700 Box Cars loaded with donated goods worth \$40 million. The supplies were then shipped to France, arriving in Le Harve several days before Christmas. As the aid began to pour in, French veterans and representatives of the French Railroad, Louis Cast and André Picard were so grateful for America's outpouring of generosity that they formulated a worthy response. They joined with the French Veterans Association to reply with a 49 car "Train of French Gratitude" consisting of WWI era 40 & 8 boxcars,

each filled with mementos from the French people and sent to America. The boxcars arrived in New York Harbor aboard the "Magellan" on February 2, 1949 and the "Gratitude Train" spread across the United States delivering a boxcar filled with gifts to each of the 48 states. The 49th boxcar was shared between the District of Columbia and the territory of Hawaii.

BOX CAR LOCATIONS

For information about the Gratitude Train and each of the 49 Merci Boxcars go to: www.mercitrain.org

Blue Chevalier Project

There are moments in the life of an organization when the future is shaped by

the commitment of its members. For the Blue Chevaliers, that moment is now.

Over the past several years, we have grown from an idea into a respected national pro-

ject within Public Relations and La Societe. Through your dedication, we have demon-

strated that the men and women of law enforcement share the same spirit of service,

patriotism, and commitment to community that has defined the Forty & Eight for more than a century.

Today, we stand on the threshold of making history.

At this September's National Promenade in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the Blue Chevaliers will again seek approval to

become a permanent National Program. This is not simply another item on an agenda it is the culmination of years of

hard work, countless volunteer hours, and the vision of members who believed our organization could make a lasting

contribution to the Forty & Eight family and our community law enforcement.

The strongest argument we can make is not words spoken from a podium. It is the strength of our membership. It is active renewals. It is new members joining our ranks. It is award nominations recognizing outstanding law enforcement

professionals in our communities.

These are the measurements that demonstrate whether we are growing, engaged, and prepared to become a permanent part of La Société. This is the same for any of our La Société programs and membership.

The Blue Chevaliers were never established simply to create another membership category. We were founded to recognize and unite law enforcement professionals who believe in service beyond the badge

—

service to veterans, children, communities, and the ideals of La Société. We strengthen our organization by bringing together individuals

whose daily lives are dedicated to protecting others and whose values reflect the very best traditions of the Forty & Eight.

Now I ask each of you to consider what role you will play in the months ahead.

If your membership has expired, renew it today. If you know a Voyageur Militaire or La Femme who would be an asset to our organization, invite them to become a Blue Chevalier. If you know of a law officer who has gone above and beyond in service to their community, submit an award nomination so they receive the recognition they deserve. Every renewal strengthens our voice. Every new member broadens our reach. Every award nomination showcases the professionalism and dedication that define law enforcement and the Blue Chevaliers.

History is rarely made by one person. It is made when ordinary people unite behind an extraordinary purpose. I believe

our purpose is clear. I believe our time has come.

Together, let us finish what we started. Thank you for your dedication, your friendship, and your unwavering commitment to the Blue Chevaliers, our committee and to the For-

ty & Eight.

Together, let us continue to demonstrate that the Blue Chevaliers are worthy of a permanent place in the proud traditions of La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux. Hopefully, in Gettysburg we will begin the next chapter in our history together

—

as we once again present our Nationale Law Officer of the Year with a \$2,000.00 award in honor

of their service and commitment to law enforcement.

Vive La Société! Vive les Blue Chevaliers!

Renslar

“

Renny

”

Keagle, Blue Chevalier Project Committee

Membership

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. The final numbers will be out within a week or so after I have written this article, which should only be minor changes. Every Voyageur is part of the Membership Team, so if you think someone would be a good Voyageur invite them. I would like to thank every Voyageur for a successful year and with everyone's continued effort we will attain 100% in Membership very soon.



**La Société 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 Grande Fall Cheminot and Grand Chef de Gare Rose Noonan Homecoming to be held October 16th and October 17th, 2025 at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, 2546 North Glenstone Avenue, Springfield, MO 65803, phone (417) 866-5253.

There will be an Executive Board Meeting on Saturday morning at 9:00 AM in the Hospitality Room.

The Fall Grande Cheminot will be held on Saturday, October 11th, 2025 at 1:00 PM at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center.

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 Lampiste, Grand Conducteur, Sous Grand Conducteurs, and Grand Aumonier.

**A.J. Noonan
Grand Correspondant**

**Rose Noonan
Grand Chef de Gare**



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

13-Aug-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%

