



The Honor Society of American Veterans Forty et Eighter



The official publication of

Winter 2025

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

GRANDE DU INDIANA VOITURE #364 CHRISTMAS



The Voiture 364 Child Welfare Committee hosted their annual HopSing Exceptional Children's Christmas Party on December 15th. This annual event that has taken place for the last 40+ years, is named in memory of Hugh H. "HopSing" Sims who was a member of V364 and dedicated his time to the Child Welfare program and helping children in our community.

Each year the Child Welfare committee appoints a Poster Child which has been identified as a special needs child. All past Poster Children and any other special needs children that are identified are invited to the HopSing Exceptional Children's Christmas Party each year along with all siblings. This year 60 children attended and were able to enjoy lunch, have their face painted by clowns, receive a gift, and most importantly have their special time with Santa and Mrs. Claus! All children left with a goody bag and book of their choosing as well. Cabane 364 also picks a family from the Exceptional Children group to sponsor and provides the family with what is needed for Christmas morning.

The HopSing Exceptional Children's Christmas Party is totally run by volunteers. The Child Welfare Committee consists of 4 people: Voyager Tamara Wireman and La Femmes Sue Herget, Barb Howard and Shaenna Martin. The committee spent many hours planning, working with families and coordinating gifts. Along with the Child Welfare Committee, numerous members of V364/C364 helped with decorating, wrapping gifts, cooking and other tasks just to make it a success. Santa and Mrs. Claus are also V364/C364 members and volunteers! V364 Nursing Scholarship Committee is also involved as they coordinate the scholarship recipients who attend and assist with serving lunch and handing out gifts. Attendance is required for them to receive their second installment of the scholarship.

Along with Santa and Mrs. Claus, there were 2 more special attendees at the V364 HopSing Exceptional Children's Christmas Party: Indiana Chef de Gare Tim Turner and Nationale Child Welfare Sous Director Norm Crawford. Thank you both for attending and hope to see you next year!

JOINT CAROLINAS WRECK

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Five new Voyageurs were initiated into the ranks of La Societe at the Joint Carolinas on January 17th - 19th. The Wrecking Crew from North Carolina performed the ceremony. Along with the Wrecking crew (in white chapeau's) and new Voyageurs is Chef de Chemin de Fer Paul Emmert Sr.

VOITURE NATIONALE OFFICERS 2024 - 2025

Paul Emmert Sr.	Chef de Chemin de Fer	Maryland
Ron Rolfes	Correspondant National	Germany
Lonnie Haynes	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	Michigan
Robert Hickey	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	North Carolina
Ralph Turner	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	Missouri
Nick Weyers	Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	Kansas
William Stroud	Avocat	Louisiana
Richard Bower	Aumonier	Maryland
Dan Dumas	Commissaire Intendant	California
Tom Wellman	Conducteur	Pennsylvania
Robert Graves	Historian	Kansas

This newspaper is owned by Voiture National of La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux. It is published quarterly with editorial offices at 1635 Hawthorne Dr. Plainfield, Indiana. 46168. Phone 317-634-1804.

Fax 317-632-9365 Email voiturenationale@msn.com The official website is www.fortyandeight.org. Price per single issue is \$2.00 and yearly subscription \$7.00.

When submitting articles, pictures or notices for publication in the Forty et Eighter; please only send articles in word or publisher format; not PDF. Pictures should only be sent as attachment or jpeg form. And YES they can also be sent by USPS. No pictures cut out of a newspaper will be accepted.

Send submissions to voiturenationale@msn.com or to the National L'editeur at wigrandvoiture@spectrum.net

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John Helgeson	Proof Reader	Wisconsin
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SOUS AUMONIER

Annie Beaton 360-910-4018 hlannieb@yahoo.com

VA Access on Military Installations

Due to enhanced security measures, all visitors to VA clinics located on military installations must now follow stricter entry procedures. To ensure you receive timely care, please review these important changes to installation entry procedures. Some changes that you need to be aware of include...

- Trusted Traveler Program is suspended
- 100% ID check for all vehicle occupants 18 and older
- Base pass required for anyone without a DoD ID Card (CAC or DDID)
- Passes are available at the installation's visitor center

To avoid impact to VA services, please plan to arrive early to lessen delays at entry points and be sure to bring a government-issued photo ID to all appointments.

Thank you for your service and for choosing VA for your healthcare!



CHEF DE CHEMIN DE FER PAUL EMMERT SR.

Fellow Voyageurs,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, and is on the way to having a Happy New Year!

It has been about 3 months since my last article for the 40&8er, and in that time I have only had one Official Travel visit, to the Joint Carolinas Promenade and Wreck. I got to spend quality time with La Presidente Cindy Hickey and Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Bob, knowing this is just a preview of the many times we will meet on our travels this year. The host, Grande du North Carolina, did a great job, and aside from the President of the Joint Carolinas getting sick just prior to the start of the event, the backups did a great job! I hope Mike gets better soon and is back on his feet.



I would like to thank the Wrecking Crew from Grande du North Carolina for the gift basket they presented to me upon my arrival. It included a laser cut steel "tattered flag", a corkboard with the 40&8 logo etched on it, a pair of 40&8 highball glasses, some 40&8 coasters, a locomotive travel mug, and a Joint Carolinas T-shirt. It will all definitely get used and/or displayed. Needless to say, it was a great event, it was North Carolina of course (the home Grande of La Presidente Cindy Hickey and Sous Chef Bob), and if I had to guess, I would say there were about 100 people at the Banquet on Saturday night. I would like to give a big thank you for the hospitality shown to Christine and I. We really appreciated it.

Upcoming travel for me will include my son, PJ's, Army Basic Training Graduation on February 6 at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Then, the following week I will be off to the Cajun Wreck, immediately followed by the Grande du Texas Spring Cheminot. Good times ahead!

For my actual topic for this 40&8er, I would like to discuss my theme for the year, Unity, and specifically Unity in La Société, and how it can benefit us in the community, state, and nation.

In any community or organization, unity is one of the most important elements that ensures its success

and longevity. For Veterans, the significance of unity takes on an even deeper meaning. We share common experiences, struggles, and sacrifices that transcend individual differences, creating a bond unlike any other. La Société is meant to serve as a vital platform where members can find camaraderie, mutual support, and a sense of purpose. Within our organization, unity plays a central role in fostering a strong and resilient community that provides physical, emotional, and social support to Voyageurs, Veterans, and their families.

The core of any Veterans organization is the shared experience of military service. Regardless of rank, branch of service, or time period served, we have undergone intense training, faced challenges, and made sacrifices in defense of our country. This collective experience provides an immediate and unspoken understanding between Voyageurs. We have served in different theaters of war or performed different roles in support, and yet, we can still relate to each other through our shared sense of duty, sacrifice, and resilience.

This bond of service is the foundation upon which La Société is built. It transcends cultural, political, and social differences, creating a space where Voyageurs can come together, regardless of background, to support one another. It is this unifying force that allows us to overcome challenges that may otherwise seem insurmountable, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), physical injuries, the difficulties of continued reintegration into civilian life, and a host of other maladies.

Unity within La Société is also key to providing the support systems that veterans need to thrive after their service. While the military offers camaraderie and a sense of purpose during active duty, returning to civilian life can leave Veterans feeling isolated, unsupported, and disconnected. The importance of community cannot be overstated in this transition. La Société provides a space for veterans to form new connections, share experiences, and receive guidance and mentorship from those who have walked similar paths.

As Doc Berry frequently speaks about in his travels across the state, and the country, mental health and emotional support are particularly crucial for Veterans, many of whom struggle with issues such as PTSD, depression, anxiety, and trauma. Within a united La Société, Voyageurs are not only able to share their stories in a safe, non-judgmental environment, but they are also able to receive peer support and access resources that can help with recovery. The commonality of Veterans who understand the emotional scars of service fosters an atmosphere of trust and healing, making it easier for individuals to seek help and navigate their individual struggles, as well as the struggles shared by their families.

One of the biggest advantages of being united within La Société is our ability to create a strong sense of community. For many, the military is a second family, and when we left active duty, many may have felt disconnected or lost without that tight-knit support group. La Société serves as an extension of that family, offering opportunities for Voyageurs to connect, engage, and continue building relationships. Promenades, special events, social gatherings, community service, and volunteer opportunities help perpetuate a sense of belonging, providing Veterans with regular interactions and a continuous sense of purpose. Just one example that comes to mind would be the work that Voyageur Terry and Dame Anita Lee of Grande du Florida do in their community. Recently, they went to the Jacksonville School for Autism and presented a check for the school's mission, and also gave them 72 stick flags. Now there you have a pair of genuinely goodhearted individuals, who are always doing for their community, and living the embodiments of a Voyageur and a Dame. Merci.

Another benefit of unity in La Société is its potential to foster leadership and personal growth. Our Veterans organizations are often led by Veterans who were not necessarily "born leaders", or commissioned officers, or senior non-commissioned officers themselves, but rather, they had a passion, and this offered an excellent opportunity for members to take on leadership roles and develop skills that will serve them both within and outside La Société. Leadership positions allow Voyageurs to work on their decision-making, problem-solving, teamwork skills, organizational abilities, and inter-personal communication, while also teaching them how to work collaboratively in a diverse and inclusive environment.

Moreover, with the way La Société is structured with Program Directeurs and Sous Directeurs at the Nationale level and down to the Voiture Locales, leadership then has the tools to provide mentorship that allows seasoned Directeurs and Sous' to guide and support newer members, from the beginning of a new Voyageurs 40&8 journey, all the way through to positions at the Nationale level. These relationships not only benefit those receiving mentorship but also strengthen the organization as a whole by ensuring the transfer of knowledge, experience, and traditions. Mentorship fosters a culture of personal and professional growth, empowering Voyageurs to overcome obstacles and build fulfilling careers within La Société.

The power of unity extends beyond personal support and community building—it also serves as a vehicle for advocacy. When Voyageurs come together with a common purpose, we become a powerful collective voice, capable of raising awareness about the programs we support, as well as the challenges veterans face. Moreover, a united La Société can help Voyageurs feel empowered, knowing they are part of a larger movement. They are not just individuals navigating the organization and their struggles alone; they are part of a "family", with shared goals and common interests, working together to improve the lives of all Veterans and their families. This empowerment helps Voyageurs regain confidence and a sense of control over their 40&8 futures, and it motivates them to continue contributing to La Société and society at large.

One of the key values promoted within all Veterans organizations is a culture of service. We are often motivated by a deep sense of duty and a desire to give back to our communities, and La Société provides the perfect platform to channel that desire. By working together on community service projects, we can continue to contribute to society in meaningful ways. Whether it's volunteering at local schools for efforts like "Flags for First Graders", supporting charities, those less fortunate, or assisting other veterans in need, unity and passion within our organization encourages members to engage in activities that support the greater good.

This sense of service not only benefits the community but also reinforces the values of camaraderie (unity) and mutual support within the organization. By working together to accomplish shared goals, we strengthen our bonds and reaffirm our commitment to one another and our communities.

The culture of service within La Société extends beyond veterans themselves - it can have a ripple effect on the broader community. By engaging in charitable endeavors, Veterans organizations help raise awareness of our core programs, and also the challenges Veterans face, and this tends to encourage others to get involved in supporting these efforts. This sense of service not only strengthens the bonds within La Société, but also promotes social responsibility and civic engagement on a larger scale.

In short, unity is the bedrock of any Veterans organization, and especially the 40&8, the "Honor Society of American Veterans". It is through this unity that Veterans find strength, support, and a renewed sense of purpose. Our shared experience of military service serves as the foundation for this unity, while the collective efforts of our organization help Voyageurs grow, heal, and thrive. For us, belonging to a united organization means having access to a lifelong support system—a true family of brothers and sisters who understand our experiences, value our sacrifices, and stand beside us through the challenges of life after service. Ultimately, unity within La Société is not just about coming together for a common cause; it is about creating a lasting bond that sustains and empowers its members for years to come.

My one request of all Voyageurs would be this: Engage with one Voyageur with whom you have either never engaged with, or one for whom you haven't spoken to for an extended period, and build or renew a camaraderie with them. It is good for you, it is good for them, and it is good for La Société.

Until next time, or until I see you down the road...

**God Bless La Société,
God Bless Our Troops,
and**

God Bless the United States of America.

CORRESPONDANT NATIONAL RON ROLFES

Greetings Voyageurs and Dames! We at Voiture Nationale hope that everyone had a joyful Holiday Season. Before I get into the talking points of this edition of the Correspondants Corner, I want to take this opportunity to give a shout out to a few folks. Back on the weekend of January 17-19, 2025, I traveled up to Winston-Salem, NC for the Joint Carolinas Promenade and Wreck. I was met at the airport by none other than Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Bob Hickey and Chef de Chemin de Fer 2022 Bill Simpson. Upon arrival at the hotel, we were greeted by several Voyageurs and Dames from both North and South Carolina. Also in attendance was our Chef de Chemin de Fer Paul Emmert and La President Nationale Cindy Hickey. The weekend was filled with lots of hospitality and good fun, and I can't thank the Grande du North Carolina, their Chef de Gare Michelle May and a big THANK YOU to the Voyageurs and Dames of V-982 who put on a really good show! Thank you all for the outstanding hospitality and I can't forget Cabana Bob for being my driver.

As we kick off 2025, I would like to begin by letting everyone know that although we are still 8 months out, your convention corporation as well as the staff have been working diligently to ensure that the 106th Promenade Nationale goes off smoothly. I have personally spoken with our hotel contacts, and they are very excited to welcome us to their city in September.

We also received an update on reservations, and they are going fast. I suggest you do not wait to make your reservations. www.fortvandeight.org/promenadenationale will get you to the links for hotel as well as promenade registration. While you are there, check out the ad form. Yes, I am putting out the Correspondants Challenge again this year. The Grand / Cabane with the most Voitures / Cabanes participating will be rewarded for their efforts.

Speaking of the website. I am sure that many if not all of you have seen the new website. In order for us to use current information we need your help. If you have front page or program worthy photos send them to myself cornat@fortvandeight.org and Terri Taylor ttaylor@fortvandeight.org. This will give us an opportunity to keep the website fresh and up to date.

As you may have seen through the P.A.L.S. Bulletin, we are always seeking ways to promote our organization. I know that Directeur Keagle has mentioned it a few times. PSA's or Public Service Announcements are a fantastic way to promote anything on a shoestring budget. In fact, you really do not even need any special equipment to make a PSA, just pull out your cell phone and hit "record."

I have already tasked the Program Directeurs and even the Chef de Chemin de Fer to come up with a PSA for their Program and on the organization respectively, but why not put it out to the entire membership, thus allowing our boots on the ground if you will an opportunity to participate in this National Campaign. Whether it is a Program you are passionate about or perhaps why fellow Veterans should consider joining our organization, pull out your phone and give us your thoughts. Just remember to wear your 40 & 8 proudly. Once you've got the video, send it to us. Be a part of the "2025 PR movement".

Thinking of running for a National "elected" position for the 2026 membership year? If you have not already done so, please reach out to me ASAP with your "Letter of Intent" of which the position you are wishing to run.

Lastly, any Grande or Locale considering putting a bid in for Promenade Nationale for 2027 and beyond. If you have not already done so, please contact me or Terri Taylor.



SPECIAL AWARDS

Directeur - Wayne Sorrentino

Greetings Voyageurs, Dames, and Friends, as the Special Awards Directeur, it was my committee's honor to host and present the Special Awards selectees for 2024 in Sandusky, Ohio at Prom Nationale.

Below is the contact info and assignments for 2024-25 for my six Sous Directeurs:

Ben Carrillo: Sous Directeur & Judge for Voyageur of the Year

837 E Cedar Dr, Chandler, AZ 85249 brcarrillo1775@gmail.com 602-758-5169

Grandes assigned: AR, AZ, CO, KS, LA, NM, OK & TX

Lawson Dukes: Sous Directeur & Assistant for Law Officer of the Year

600 Domenico Cir Apt A1, St. Augustine, FL 32086 lawkes@yahoo.com 904 814 6610

Grandes assigned: AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC & TN

Ernest Hill, Jr Sous Directeur and Assistant for Voyageur of the Year

329 Applewood Dr, Reevesville, SC 29471. gunner39a@gmail.com 843 563 1696

Grandes assigned: IL, IN, ME, NH, NY, OH, PA, VT & WV

Sean D Johnson: Sous Directeur and Judge for HERO of the Year

1005 N Main St, Aberdeen, SD 57401 seanjohnson@abe.midco.net 605 228 1636

Grandes assigned: IA, MI, MN, MO, MT, ND, NE, SD & WI

Geri Stephens: Sous Directeur & Judge for Law Officer of the Year

2943 Sand Hills Dr, Chester, VA 23831, geri_stephens@ccpsnet.net, 804-248-9288 (after 1600)

Grandes assigned: CT, DC, DE, FR, GR, MA, MD, NJ & VA

Mildred S Wright-Pearson: Sous Directeur & Judge for CITY/TOWN of the Year

PO Box 233, Tranquillity, CAL 93668 mswap48@gmail.com 559 250 8247

Grandes assigned: AK, CA, ID, LT, NV, OR, UT, WA & WY

Thank you to my all-star Sous Directeurs for their untiring efforts and due diligence with performing their assigned tasks. Every Grande should be submitting a nomination for EACH AWARD and those nominated & forwarded to Nationale should receive an award / plaque at the Locale and Grande levels even if not selected for the Nationale award, and with appropriate publicity. PR is necessary to promote our Great 40 & 8 Organization and to assist in achieving our membership goals.

The Main Item for this article is (or was) the issue of the FALSE RUMOR being spread about the Law Officer of the Year Award being moved to the Blue Chevaliers Program (once BC comes online). This is TOTALLY FALSE. I have been advised by Correspondant National, Ron Rolfes, Jr that this is a false rumor and anyone spreading this rumor needs to stop spreading the rumor immediately. Please advise me if you hear this rumor yourself during your travels, so we can educate those spreading the rumor that the rumor is false, and they need to stop spreading it (& to go back and advise those so uninformed that the rumor they spread was false). There will be NO CHANGES to Special Awards with the new Blue Chevaliers Program being in place (soon). My committee will continue to select the four awards: Law Officer of the Year, Hero of the Year, City/Town of the Year and Voyageur of the Year and present them at Promenade Nationale annually. How the new Blue Chevaliers Program details are going to move forward remains to be seen. Stand by. 'NUFF SAID and thank you.

Last item for this edition of The 40&8er Newspaper is the balance of my Fall Edition article which was too long to publish last issue:

To make the point, we can't do our job if you don't do your job, which is to write up a high-quality nomination for your candidate for any of our four Special Awards. These nominations must be generated by the Voitures Locale, not by Grande nor by Nationale. **We had 6 fewer nominations rec'd by our four Judges this year.** Any nomination should be cause for a local award presentation, even if the candidate is not selected for the Nationale



award. An award from the Locale or the Grande at an appropriate ceremony or a dinner, and possibly some newspaper coverage will go a long way toward providing some PR for our organization and great exposure for your Voiture or Grande. Offer to help them write the story by providing names, titles, etc. Please contact me or my Sous Directeurs for more ideas and assistance. Every person or City/Town nominated is a winner!! But only one of each category can be selected for our awards at Prom Nationale.

Now is the time to start working on the 2025 awards.

Looking forward to a successful 2025.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Special Awards Program.

CHILD WELFARE

Directeur - Tim Evans

Caring for Our Kids: The Heart of the 40 & 8 Veterans Group
Hey everyone!

As proud members of the 40 & 8 veterans organization, we're on a mission to make our communities better, especially when it comes to the well-being of our kids. Supporting our children isn't just something we should do; it's a heartfelt calling that resonates deeply with veterans who know all about service, commitment, and working together.

Veterans have a special understanding of responsibility and sacrifice, making us fantastic advocates for kids' welfare. Many of us have balanced military life with family life, giving us valuable insights into what families today really need. By sharing our stories and experiences, we can drive initiatives that create loving and healthy spaces for our youth.

Mental health is an important topic within our veteran community. Many of us face challenges like PTSD and anxiety, which can impact our roles as parents and caregivers. It's crucial that we tackle these issues not just for ourselves but also for our kids who depend on us for security and support. Building strong support networks can make a big difference in our family dynamics, ultimately enhancing child welfare.

The 40 & 8 veterans group is in a unique position to make a real difference in the lives of children and families. Through family-friendly events, scholarships for education, and advocating for childcare support, we can weave a network that uplifts both veterans and our kids.

Advocacy is key to improving child welfare in our Veteran community. By working together with local governments and organizations, we can highlight child safety and well-being while securing vital resources for families who need them. Programs like mentorship, after-school activities, and family counseling can empower parents and help kids gain the skills they need to thrive.

As we continue our meaningful work, it's important that we keep child welfare at the forefront of our efforts. By tapping into the collective strength and dedication of our veterans, we can spark a wonderful movement that champions our children's well-being. Let's come together to ensure that the next generation grows up in a safe and nurturing environment, filled with the values of honor, service, and strong support.

With warm regards - Tim Evans

GRANDE DU IDAHO



Grande Chef de Gare Ralph Binion and Grande Historien Damigo (from Mountain Home) visit Voiture Locale #311 and present 100% pins to Chef de Gare North and Correspondant Irving.



YOUTH SPORTS

Directeur - Randy Shrader

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. It is time to really get involved in our programs for the Forty and Eight. Let us make the push to make our programs a success between now and the end of summer.



Did you know that Youth Sports is great for building our nation's youth to be responsible adults?

Here are Five Lessons that can carry our youth into successful business:

Set clear goals: You work for the team's success. Having clear goals not only helps your work succeed, but helps you learn what is needed to succeed.

Take the blame for your failures: If you're leading a sports team or a company, you must be a role model for others by taking the blame for your mistakes and rewarding others who do the same.

Learn: From successes and failures and keep going.

Prepare: Think clearly about the outcome you want and the details of making that happen.

Know critical details: Learn what goes into making a winning team. Apply the knowledge you have gained to be on top. If you keep applying the lessons you have learned from sports, your business success could turn you into a very wealthy person.

Did you know that 95% of Fortune 500 executives participated in high school athletics and 96% of dropouts in 14 school districts in seven regions of the nation were not participating in an athletic program?

Youth Sports are a fantastic way for children to start respecting authority other than parents or teachers. A large part of life is about learning how to handle and interact with authoritative figures. Respecting authority goes a long way for you to become successful. Our nation's young women also benefit from youth sports. Did you know that female high school athletes are:

- 92% less likely to get involved with drugs.
- 80% less likely to get pregnant.
- 3 times more likely to graduate than non-athletes.

The Forty and Eight can do great by seeking out those teams in need of a financial boost.

Here are you Sous Directeurs of for 2025

Area A, Sous Director Gary P. Howe: Michigan, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Germany, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Area B, Sous Director John Rodgers: Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Latin America, Mexico, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.

Area C, Sous Director William Martin: Indiana, Arkansas, France, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming.

Area D, Sous Director Lori Barber: Wisconsin, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

GRANDE DU OREGON



Toys/Gifts/Gift Cards Donated for Foster Kids. Being delivered to Department of Human Services Marion Child Welfare Office. DHS Employees, Janet Zook, Pam Seelye & Frank Wells.

RITUAL

Steve Bradley - Directeur

In the beginning of the Blue Ritual and Manual of Ceremonies, on page IV is a detailed Plan of Voiture Promenade Room. Has any Voyageur Militaire attended a Promenade in which the room has been set up like this plan (with or without the Steps)? I am open to suggestions of a more realistic floor plan.



How is your Voiture Locale/Grande Voiture Promenade Room set up? Are Voiture Officers, Voiture Directeurs and Chairpersons seated with the Membership or in a special place along with the Aumonier, Chef de Train, Lampiste, Conducteur and Garde de la Porte? Please send me your ideas for a Promenade Room Plan. Should any additional information be added to the 4 statements below the Plan on page IV? Send to Steve Bradley stevepkst@gmail.com

Remember we begin and end all Promenades according to our Ritual. All Voyageurs wear Chapeaus.

The Blue Ritual and Manual of Ceremonies has been updated with the three additions added in September at Promenade Nationale 2024.

On the cover of the new addition, in the lower right-hand corner, has

“Revised Sandusky, Ohio Promenade Nationale September 19, 2024”

Your new copy is available for purchase at Voiture Nationale. Keeping up with the changes in our Ritual will keep your Voiture up to date and we will all be using the same Ritual.

NATIONAL BOX CAR ASSOCIATION

Joyce Robberstad - Cabane Liaison

As we remember the history of the box car it is also important to look at what the National Box Car Association does today, take note of all the programs that the NBCA supports every year.

The National Box Car Association set goals of making contributions to Hospitals, Children's Homes and Orphanages. Expanding it's 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. If you have a few extra dollars lying around needing a place to spend, why not send in a donation to this program. Image how much more the NBCA can do if we all sent just \$5 for the programs. Challenge your Voiture to match all donations by your voyageurs and your Cabane to match all donations by your dames. Can you imagine the work that could be done with this kind of participation.

Remember that most states still have their box cars. They may be on display at a post, chateau, museum or other location. Most states are working hard to maintain or restore their box cars. If you haven't reached out to follow the Box Car page on Facebook, I encourage you to do so. This page has wonderful information being added all the time. The Utah box car is currently being restored, and the progress is continuously being shared. If you travel to a state with a box car, reach out and find where it is being maintained and take the time to go see them. Many are in Train Museums, which can make for an amazing outing. Thank you for your ongoing support of this very vital program.

RECENTLY RETIRED VETERAN GETS A CIVILIAN JOB

He does a wonderful job, but there's only one problem: he always shows up late. His boss takes him aside and asks him, "Weren't you in the military? What would your leadership say if you were late?" The Veteran replies, "They'd say, 'Good morning, Sergeant Major. Your coffee's on your desk.'"

GRANDE DU NEBRASKA



40 & 8 AWARDS GRANT

At their Tuesday night meeting in Nebraska City on 26 NOV, the local Voiture of the 40 & 8 presented Ms. Olivia Gottula of Burchard, Nebraska, a financial grant. Chef de Gare Carl Christensen of 40 & 8 Voiture 10/15 presented a check to Ms. Gottula, along with a 40 & 8 2024 Nurse's Training Pin.

Ms. Gottula is attending the Nebraska Methodist College School of Nursing where she is a senior studying to be a Registered Nurse. She is carrying a 4.0 Grade Average.

Ms. Gottula will graduate from the College of Nursing in May of 2025 with a 4.0 grade average.

L to R: Boxcar Correspondant from Omaha Virgil Blum, Ms. Gottula, local Chef de Gare Carl Christensen, and Correspondant Roger Kopf.

GRANDE DU INDIANA



Jay Collars and PG Gentrup congratulate Mike Tomes on being inducted into the Indiana Veterans Hall of Fame. All are Voyageurs.

JOINT CAROLINAS



Chef de Chemin de Fer Paul Emmert along with North Carolina Grand Chef de Gare Michelle May and South Carolina Grand Chef de Gare Mike Clair at the Saturday evening banquet held in Winston-Salem, NC.

GRANDE DU NEW YORK



Voiture Locale #476 held a Wreck on November 24th at the Niagara Frontier American Legion. Six new voyageurs join La Societe. Chef de Gare Joe Orzechowski was wrecking Chef and Grand Chef de Gare Passe du NY Ron Diebold was Obligating Chef.

GRANDE DU WASHINGTON



On December 4th, Voiture Locale #90 of Wenatchee presented \$750 Nurses Training Scholarships to seven Nursing students.

GRANDE CABANE DU MINNESOTA



The Dames Of Cabane 415 distributing \$400 worth of socks, treats and Christmas cards to the Veterans at the St. Cloud Minnesota VA hospital on December 23rd.

GRANDE DU TEXAS



On January 21st, members of Voiture #605 El Paso Texas presented two Blue Chevalier Awards to members of the El Paso Police Department, Tactical Unit at the Eastside Regional Command Center. Present was VM Celia Torres, VM Francisco Grijalva and VM and National Public Relations Directeur Renny Keagle. Officer Eric Rodriguez was recognized for his service to his department and community. Sergeant Victor Vela was presented a certificate for his membership, support and dedication to the Blue Chevaliers. Sgt Vela is also a new member to the Blue Chevaliers. Both officers were also presented with decals for their vehicles and Blue Chevalier pins.



On December 5th, Coos County Voiture #316 presented the Nationale Nurse of the Year award to Makayla Sepich. Her work at Bay Area Hospital in Coos Bay/North Bend is second to none, the passion and caring for others is heartwarming. The support from Sandra Maddux and Kristy Blair has made it possible to make our program such a success. The presentation was made by Locale #316 and Nationale Sous Directeur Nurses Training Kevin Owens. The hospital provides food and refreshments after with Nurses from the floor Makayla works on. We are so proud of the accomplishments of Makayla and our local hospital.

L to R: Lou Kolkhorst, Eric Stallings, Nationale Nurse of the Year Makayla Sepich, Kevin Owens, Ryanne Thiesfeld, Paul Trueax, Bruce Stennett and Bob Aton.



GRANDE DE WISCONSIN



Pierce County Voiture #904 head out on parade route one more time before the cold weather sets in on the frozen tundra of Wisconsin.



MEMBERSHIP

Directeur - Frank Angelo

Greetings Voyageurs,

I hope this article finds you doing well. The information I am working from is from 23 January 2025 Membership update from Nationale. I wanted to have the most up-to-date statistics when I wrote this article, before my deadline, which is today.



The Membership Team is working very diligently in getting all the updates out to the Grandes and keeping them informed. If you find something, that works well in recruiting new Members, please share since every Voyageur is part of the Membership Team. Membership is still the lifeblood to this Organization and every other organization out there. We still need the Members to make our outstanding programs successful.

We still need to get our 40 & 8 name out. I still wear something every day that has something to do with our organization on it. Currently you could ask ten veterans if they have ever heard of the 40 & 8 at least 70% or more of them are going to say NO. Unfortunately, when this Organization was formed, we were formed as a secret society. We must get our name out there and what we do to help generate interest in 40 & 8. Carry a Membership Nomination form with you, the wallet size works well, so we can start filling our ranks with new Members.

In the last article I mentioned the modification to the Membership Form. The modified Membership Form with email address is available on the Nationale Website. Please make sure you are using the modified Membership Form. Having the email address is a great tool to have, when trying to contact Voyageurs. Hopefully, everyone is enjoying the new user friendly website from Nationale

(<https://www.fortyandeight.org>).

The contact information is still password protected. We still must get out of the mindset of having to be a Legionnaire for several years, before being invited into our Organization. We must retain, recruit and bring back our former Voyageurs that have strayed away from us for whatever reason.

Our current Membership stands at 7,009 paid members with a 45.72% of our goal. We are currently behind last year's pace by 712 members. I know the Membership Team that has been assembled from Nationale, Grande to the Locale is working very hard for you so we can achieve our GOAL of 100% in Membership! Every Voyageur is part of the Membership Team, so if you think someone would be a good Voyageur invite them. I know WE can achieve our goal of 100% plus in Membership. If you are reading this article and do not have your 2025 Membership Card, please reach out to your Locale Voiture and pay your dues.

If anyone needs any assistance from the membership team, please do not hesitate to reach out to us either by email or phone and we will gladly do whatever we can to assist. We have great programs in this Outstanding Organization, but we need the Members to make those programs successful.

En Service,

CABANE NATIONALE

January 23rd

Grande	Area	2024	2025	% of Goal	Short
Alabama	1	16	18	112.50%	2
Alaska	2	10	0	0.00%	-10
Arkansas	2	6	6	100.00%	0
Cabane Nationale		13	13	100.00%	0
Florida	2	106	90	84.91%	-16
Georgia	2	80	80	100.00%	-4
Illinois	1	75	56	74.67%	-19
Indiana	1	368	280	76.09%	-88
Louisiana	2	22	12	54.55%	-10
Maine	1	33	22	66.67%	-11
Massachusetts	2	13	14	107.69%	1
Michigan	2	161	150	93.17%	-11
Minnesota	1	98	84	85.71%	-14
Mississippi	1	13	13	100.00%	0
Missouri	2	27	30	111.11%	3
Nebraska	2	9	5	55.56%	-4
New Ytork	1	60	25	41.67%	-35
North Carolina	1	55	53	96.36%	-2
Ohio	2	28	24	85.71%	-4
Oklahoma	1	31	26	83.87%	-5
Oregon	2	53	50	94.34%	-3
Pennsylvania	1	24	25	104.17%	1
South Carolina	2	80	57	71.25%	-23
South Dakota	1	18	22	122.22%	4
Texas	1	35	32	91.43%	-3
Washington	2	133	92	69.17%	-41
Wisconsin	2	99	102	103.03%	3
TOTALS		1666	1381	82.89%	-285

MEMBERSHIP 2025

January 23rd

AREA	2024	2025	PERCENT	
ALABAMA	3	102	100.98%	
ALASKA	1	142	73.94%	
ARIZONA	1	325	73.23%	
ARKANSAS	3	60	66.67%	
CALIFORNIA	2	558	76.52%	
COLORADO	1	51	72.55%	
CONNECTICUT	4	102	84.31%	
DELAWARE	2	26	100.00%	
DIST OR COLUMBIA	2	15	86.67%	
FLORIDA	3	504	63.10%	
FRANCE	3	98	67.35%	
GEORGIA	3	313	40.89%	
GERMANY	4	63	98.41%	
IDAHO	1	88	95.45%	
ILLINOIS	2	882	59.07%	
INDIANA	1	1907	67.70%	
IOWA	2	190	66.32%	
KANSAS	2	310	73.23%	
KENTUCKY	3	160	71.25%	
LATIN AMERICA	2	13	30.77%	
LOUISIANA	3	462	56.93%	
MAINE	4	76	46.05%	
MARYLAND	4	198	60.10%	
MASSACHUSETTS	4	86	93.02%	
MICHIGAN	4	673	69.39%	
MINNESOTA	4	803	79.80%	
MISSISSIPPI	3	124	95	76.61%
MISSOURI	1	633	415	65.56%
MONTANA	1	73	45	61.64%
NEBRASKA	2	261	175	67.05%
NEVADA	1	15	17	113.33%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1	59	56	94.92%
NEW JERSEY	2	35	34	97.14%
NEW MEXICO	1	5	4	80.00%
NEW YORK	4	615	477	77.56%
NORTH CAROLINA	3	403	247	61.29%
NORTH DAKOTA	2	153	101	66.01%
OHIO	3	884	655	74.10%
OKLAHOMA	2	92	87	94.57%
OREGON	1	116	83	71.55%
PENNSYLVANIA	4	797	612	76.79%
SOUTH CAROLINA	3	221	205	92.76%
SOUTH DAKOTA	2	296	263	88.85%
TENNESSEE	3	61	34	55.74%
TEXAS	2	227	144	63.44%
UTAH	1	1	0	0.00%
VERMONT	2	29	26	89.66%
VIRGINIA	3	307	270	87.95%
WASHINGTON	1	392	243	61.99%
WEST VIRGINIA	3	134	82	61.19%
WISCONSIN	4	755	624	82.65%
WYOMING	1	5	7	140.00%
V2000		429	358	83.45%
TOTALS		15329	10979	71.63%

AREA	2024	2025	Percent	Rank
Area - 4 Lonnie Haynes	4167	3202	76.84%	1st Place
Area - 2 Nick Weyers	3087	2174	70.42%	2nd Place
Area - 1 Ralph Turner	3812	2625	68.86%	3rd Place
Area - 3 Robert Hickey	3833	2620	68.35%	4th Place
V-2000	429	358	83.45%	



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer
Lonnie Haynes



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer
Ralph Turner



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer
Nick Weyers



Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer
Bob Hickey



GRANDE DU MINNESOTA



Early Christmas with V414 du Minnesota. Voiture 414 presented \$7500 in scholarships to 6 students at their annual banquet December 14th. Standing: Grand Chef de Gare Steve Dircks, V414 Correspondant Jerry Block, Santa Clause (V415 Correspondant Rich Philabaum) Past Grand Chef de Gare Elmer Baysinger. Seated are three of the six students who received the scholarships.

GRANDE DU NEW YORK



Voiture 713 collecting donations for Child Welfare and Nursing in Patchogue, NY

GRANDE DE WISCONSIN



La Crosse County Voiture #830 assisted a family who experienced a house fire on December 11th and lost everything. Through the Charles W. Arderly Memorial Child Welfare Trust Fund, the six children were taken care of. What is even more amazing is the Locale working with the local JC Penney clothing store which gave them approximately a 43% discount on items purchased. In the picture are Voyageurs Carl Sjolander and Al Johnson.

GRANDE DU GEORGIA



December 7th, was the end of Cabane 217s (Atlanta, GA) year long Toys for Tots Toy Drive. This year's final tally was approximately \$15,000. A majority of the Toys were donated by Bea Ayton. Child Welfare Chair and Betty Hanna, Locale La Presidente. These two Dames have developed a new hobby....searching for Toys at a bargain price, which enables them to purchase more Toys.

Photo: Bea Ayton, Betty Hanna, Janet Walsh, Paul Todd, Chef de Gare, V-217, Atlanta, and the volunteers from Toys for Tots.

GRANDE DU MARYLAND



VOITURE#122 SCHOLARSHIPS REACH \$17,000

A check for \$2,400 was presented to Salisbury University Nursing Department on September 9. This donation brings the total donated to the University's Nursing program to over \$17,000 in the past eight years. The recipients of the scholarships worth \$800.00 ea. were: Jenny Shaw from Easton MD, Maddy Hunt York PA, and Grace Gulley from Pikesville NJ. Representing Voiture#122 and the University at the presentation were Past Maryland Grand Chef de Gare Richard Cunningham, Correspondant John Iwanski, and Amanda Willey from the University's Nursing Program. Each of the recipients and the University Staff received a Long Stem Red Rose and a 40/8 Nursing Pin. Scholarships are awarded to students scheduled to receive a four-year degree and graduate as RNs in their selected field.



Gettysburg Battlefield

JOINT CAROLINAS



Group picture after the Saturday evening banquet.
Center: Chef de Chemin de Fer Paul Emmert and National Cabane Presidente Cindy Hickey

CARVILLE STAR

Directeur - Tom Adams



2020 Carville Star Pin - honors the Daughters of Charity who arrived in Carville in 1896 to care for patients and ultimately serve in varied roles at the hospital. On the pin they are greeting a new patient arriving by ambulance.

Hansen's disease (leprosy) is named for the Norwegian scientist that discovered the causative agent, a bacteria that closely resembles the bacteria that causes tuberculosis. For centuries, Hansen's disease (HD) patients have been shunned and ostracized by society.

In the US and elsewhere in the world, no other disease has ever led its victims to comparable extremes of isolation, confinement, discrimination and stigma.

In 1894, the first HD patients were transported up the Mississippi River by barge from New Orleans to a dilapidated plantation home, the centerpiece of a former sugar cane plantation. No one would have believed that this site would ultimately become a US Public Health Hospital, where effective treatment of HD would be discovered and thousands of HD patients would be rehabilitated and afforded education and training opportunities enabling a return to the world outside the hospital.

However, it was an arduous journey that took many years to get to the point where HD patients could enjoy freedoms of communication with the "outside" world, unrestricted travel, the right to vote, and even get their deposits back on bottles of Coca-Cola.

Remarkably, reaching that point is where veterans organizations made a big difference. In 1931, 20 Spanish-American War and World War I veterans formed a Post of what was for many years the parent organization of the Forty and Eight. Working on behalf of the welfare of veterans, for the first time all hospital patients were to benefit from "outside" advocacy. Improvements in recreational activities came first, followed by legislative activity that resulted in an initiative to build a state-of-the-art hospital and new patient quarters.

Carville patient Stanly Stein began publishing a patient newspaper *The Star* in 1931 for the purpose of airing patient grievances and reaching the outside world. One of its campaigns was to promote use of "Hansen's disease" instead of "leprosy" and to halt the use of the word "leper." Stein recognized the Forty and Eight as the third veterans organization to appear at Carville. He notes, "I hesitate to think what the hospital would be like today if veterans had not been committed here, for it was through the vets that the national organizations became interested in Carville as a whole."

The first documented contribution of the Forty and Eight at Carville occurred in 1943, when a voyageur from Arkansas contacted the 40&8's Grande du Louisiana regarding the need for a printing press for *The Star*. In December 1943 the Grand presented a press and all its accessories as a Christmas present to Stanley Stein and *The Star*.

While the influence and activity of its one-time parent organization at Carville waned with the passing of the years and diminished demand for advocacy of patient grievances, 40&8's support to Carville remained steadfast. The Carville Star Program is currently one of the 40&8's seven major programs. As such it funds publication and distribution of *The Star*, keeping alive the legacy of "radiating the truth about Hansen's disease." . [Because there are no longer patients at Carville - *The Star* is now edited by a former patient. Now the magazine has as its purpose to: 1) Promote an educated public opinion of Hansen's disease. 2.) Serve as advocate for those who have experienced or been impacted by HD. 3) Foster self-empowerment of those who have experienced HD.]

The Carville Star Program funds projects for the Carville Historic District, including the cemetery and the museum. Recently the Program installed interpretive signage throughout the District for touring visitors. The National Hansen's Disease Museum at Carville, the beneficiary of 40&8 support, houses displays to tell the



The 40&8 is a proud organization with Carville tightly bound into its history and tradition. No other veterans organization has as a declared mission to disseminate information to promote understanding of a disease.

La Soci t  is an organization filled with traditions incorporated into our rituals and our programs like the Carville Star Program. In the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye addresses the importance of tradition when he says "Because of our traditions, we have kept our balance for many, many years...we have traditions for everything...You may ask, how did this tradition start? I'll tell you. I don't know. But it's a tradition. And because of our traditions, every one of us knows who he is, and what God expects him to do. Traditions, traditions. Without our traditions, our lives would be as shaky as... as... as a fiddler on the roof!" And so it is with La Soci t  with our traditions insuring our identity - who we are and what we stand for."

NATIONAL BOX CAR ASSOCIATION

Secretarie Treasurer - Virgil Blum

I want to thank everyone that has participated in our program last year. I look forward to another year of working with everyone. Our program six Sous Directeur's that have been assigned to cover all the Grandes. If you are a Grande Chef or Correspondent you should be receiving a newsletter monthly no later than the 10th day of the month. This will have all the current information that our program has.

The Box Car Directeur again has a deadline of February 1st. Any Voyager that has drawing or an idea for the 2026 Box Car Pin design can submit it to Director Steve. I also need to have the new Crew and Association Card colors. The Program try's to represent a Cancer color in their honor.

The Merci Maintenance deadline is July 1st. \$150.00 is given to every Grande that completes the form and buys at least \$150.00 of Box Car pins or cards. 16 Grandes received their check last year. If your state has the Merci Boxcar you are eligible to get this check. This is a great way to improve your boxcar.

If your Grande plans to have your locomotive at Gettysburg PA for the Nationale Promenade please send me a message by the July 1st deadline. There is a form that needs to be completed. Any Lockies that arrive and do not have the form completed will not be eligible for the money stipend for attending the Prom.

Virgil Blum
7511 S. 128th St.
Omaha NE 68138
Cell: 402-779-6827. Email: virg4huskers@yahoo.com



AMERICANISM

Directeur - John Edelblute

Greetings to all of my Forty and Eight family. I hope everyone had a nice Fall along with a safe and blessed holiday season. From what I have seen through correspondence and from word of mouth our family has been very busy doing all things Americanism within and outside our organization.

Here is a little history lesson for you today. Presidents' Day celebrates the birthdays of both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Observed annually on the third Monday in February, it is also sometimes understood as a celebration of the birthdays and lives of all American presidents. Its origin lies in the 1880s, when Washington's birthday was celebrated as a federal holiday. During debates about a new bill that would move many federal holidays to Mondays, it was suggested that the celebration of Washington's birthday be combined with Lincoln's and that the holiday be named Presidents' Day. That name change was rejected. But when the bill became law in the early 1970's, Presidents' Day became the commonly accepted name anyway, since Washington was born on February 22nd and Lincoln was born on February 12th and the holiday falls between their birthdays. Today, Presidents' Day is celebrated with public ceremonies, public speeches and holiday sales from retailers. For the past



few years, my wife and I always attend an event named the George Washington Luncheon put on by the Milwaukee County Council of Units of the American Legion Auxiliary. It is a wonderful time. A couple years back they put on a program like our Flags for First graders program which they have done around the state of Wisconsin with actor portrayals of George Washington and Betsy Ross in full costume, very cool. I hope you all have something planned for February 17th this year too.

Our Flags for First graders program as been going full swing and off the charts this year. I am so pleased to have heard of all the presentations I have been informed about so far. This obviously is one of our favorite activities to put on amongst our many Grandes. I know most of you keep detailed accounts on when with history books and lots of photos etc. if you do not please consider doing so. It is a great part of history for your Grande and our organization. Thank You so much for doing so.

Our Americanism Consolidated Report is a valuable resource on how we track our Americanism activities throughout the year. From the Americanism Award section through the Veterans section on the report it is very important to keep a good record on all that you do. It helps us find out our strong points and the ones we can grow on in the future. Please do not be afraid to think outside the box when reporting an activity. What we do is for being a great American. Do not be afraid to contact myself or you perspective Sous Directeur should you have any questions.

I want to thank all the Americanism Team from the Sous Directeurs Nationale the way to the Locale Americanism Directeurs for what you are doing and have done so far this year in this program. It is truly an honor and privilege working along side of you. Let's keep up the good work. I look forward to seeing you at Chef de Chemin de Fer Paul Emmert's Homecoming in March if not before then. Until next time

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Directeur - Renslar Keagle

Greetings from the land of "storytelling, ambassadorship and persuasion". We have just begun our new year but we are well into our 2025 membership year. Many are looking at the many months until Promenade Nationale in September - but time moves fast this time of year and before we know it, Locale and Grand Elections are before us, most of our regional/area promenades are approaching, Spring Cheminots and more - a time to roll up our sleeves. We continue our push for membership and our programs but what about Public Relations. PR is not something we try to have time for - it is something we must take time for.

Public relations has an effect on all of the above. No matter how well we push forward in all of our efforts - public relations contributes to our successes. We cannot grow in our communities if our communities are not aware of us and we do little for them. We cannot grow our locales and participation in our promenades if we do little in promoting ourselves with our membership. We cannot grow as voyageurs if we are not aware of our ritual and history. Be it internal or external, it is all public relations

We might say, well, we do not have a Publiciste - but we all have Chef de Gares, Correspondants, Historiens and L'Editeurs.. Most or all have someone in charge of social media and websites. Collectively that makes a very strong PR team. But someone must step forward and do the coordination.

So as we continue our journey along our very own yellow brick road to Promenade Nationale - we don't need a heart, we don't need a brain, but perhaps we need to seek the courage to consider public relations as our successful way back home.





On December 7th, Voiture & Cabane 304, Grand du Florida, Jacksonville, held their annual Christmas banquet. Everyone bought children gifts to be donated to Baptist Children's Home One More Child. On December 9th, V-304 Chef de Gare Keith Varney and Cheminot Nationale Binion Williams, delivered the gifts to the Baptist Children's Home.

GRANDE DU FLORIDA



On November 19th, Terry & Anita Lee, visited The Russell Home for Atypical Children Thrift Store in Orlando, FL and delivered donations valued at \$935. On the 20th, they visited the Russell Home itself and delivered needed items for the residents, valued at \$616.



January 23rd, Terry & Anita Lee, & Debbie Williams, Grande de Florida La Presidente, visited The Russell Home for atypical children in Orlando FL & presented a donation check for \$500.00



On January 16th, Voyageur Terry Lee, Dame Anita Lee, and Alan Schaefer, visited The Jacksonville School for Autism & presented a donation check for \$300.00 and 72 stick flags for the students

GRANDE DU NORTH CAROLINA



The Voiture 1237 has completed the Flags for First Graders Program for the elementary schools in Alamance County for the 2024-2025 school year. The first school, Hillcrest Elementary was done on September 24th and the last, Elon Elementary on December 6th. We were pleased to be able to visit all 29 Elementary Schools in Alamance County this year, 20 public, 6 private and 3 charter schools. We distributed 2,360 Flags to students and teachers this year, drove 3,282 miles and expended 334 manhours. The presentations were done using 3 or 4 presenters per school with a total of only 13 volunteers. Without the devotion of these 13 volunteers, we could not have been successful.

GRANDE DU OKLAHOMA



Grande du Oklahoma's Annual Christmas Party for residents at the JD McCarty Center for Children with Developmental Disabilities as held on the 14th of December. Grande du Oklahoma founded the JD McCarty Center in 1946 as a Cerebral Palsy Hospital and is still active with the annual Christmas Party and Voyageurs on the Cerebral Palsy Commission which oversees the JDMC. As in previous years, the Voyageurs acted as Santa's elves and presented the presents to the residents. Voyageurs and Dames also donated presents to Santa's Workshop so toys could be given to out-patient children and siblings of the resident children. It was great to be able to pass out the presents in person, and everyone had a great time. Our special guest was National Nurses Training Directeur Kevin Johnson of the Grande du Missouri. Santa Claus is also a Voyageur.

GRANDE DU CONNECTICUT



Presentation by 40/8 Connecticut Grand Voiture to the Fisher House \$500 in Walmart Gift Cards on Dec. 28, 2024 at the West Haven Fisher House. L to R: Mark Walker (Fisher House employee), Roger Anderson (V370 & Grand Commissaire Intendant), Robert Murray (V328 and NEC), Amanda Salthouse (Fisher House Manager), Ken Lewis (V370, Grand Chef de Gare), Tom Honyotski (V328, Grand Aumonier), Bob Maturo (V328, Grand Drapeau).



NATIONALE LA PRESIDENTE CINDY HICKEY

I truly hope that you all had a very happy holiday, no matter what it is that you celebrate, I wish for Love, Joy, and Peace in the new year to come.



2025 is the year of growth for the La Femmes. It is also the year of the snake in the Chinese New Year, so I wondered what the snake stood for: Wisdom, Protection, Rebirth, Healing, Renewal, and Energy. These attributes tie in nicely with my thoughts for this month's letter.

Although the thought of the snake isn't pleasant it does remind me of the inner strength that every dame has for tools to recruit: you have the Wisdom of our wonderful organization, and you possess the ability to protect every member as she is a sister, you do have the power to give rebirth to the La Femmes with new members and heal those hurt feelings with current and old members. I would ask that you reach out to that Dame that we don't see anymore, that you are not sure why she doesn't come to our events and lastly every one of us has the energy to help rebuild our organization, by adding one or two more dames. We can all make a difference. I have watched the numbers since I became a Dame and we have lost so many members I would ask that you turn the page and let's add to our roll call and rebuild our membership. Recruit someone just like you to help us make that 10% increase by June 30, 2025,

We are so lucky to have so many superstars in our organization who are crushing it.

Gena Keller is on a roll for ways and means! Gena has big shoes to fill and I thank her for the "Eat More Beef Campaign". If you have tickets, please send back the stubs with the money so we can pick the winner. Gena You Rock Girl! Carol Barker Gena's co-chair is working on a separate project as well. Good Luck Girl.

Carrie Haynes is also crushing it with her Nurses Training Campaign where you can nominate someone in the nursing field to get some well-deserved recognition. Carrie is such a positive thinker that I know her Nurses Training Program is going to Skyrocket.

Our two La Sous Presidents will also be talking about a new program that will be coming out to invite new members to join us.

My last request is to send me any pictures or articles of all the great things that you all are doing I may be La Presidente but you are the ones that are energizing our programs to make them so successful. I would like to add these items to my scrapbook, I appreciate you all.

Yours in Service.

Cindy Hickey

La Presidente Nationale

"Let's work hard but let's play hard and together we can do Great Things Let's all share kindness with Pixie Dust"

VAVS

Gena Keller - VAVS Liaison

As we step into 2025, let's embrace the spirit of empowerment that has been championed by women in service through our commitment to the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS). The legacy of the remarkable women before us serves as both an inspiration and a call to action. We have not only the privilege but also the responsibility to uplift one another, paving the way for future generations to achieve greatness. Each act of kindness, every moment of mentorship, and all our efforts to empower our fellow women veterans contribute to a brighter, more equitable future. Let us carry this torch of empowerment, igniting a passion for service and solidarity as we honor the sacrifices and achievements of those who walked this path before us.



January is a month rich with military observances, providing us with reflections on our shared history. As we celebrate the U.S. Coast Guard Birthday on

January 4th and the Army Reserve Birthday on January 31st, we remember that these moments not only highlight the dedication of service members but also the vital contributions of women in the military. Although the National Guard Birthday is in December, its significance resonates throughout the year as we recognize the courage and commitment of those who serve. These celebrations remind us that in unity, we find strength, and as women veterans, we have the power to change the world.

Among the trailblazers in military aviation, Evelyn Bryan Johnson stands out as the oldest female military pilot, logging an astonishing 57,635 flying hours. Her legacy as a flight instructor and a colonel in the Civil Air Patrol embodies the spirit of perseverance and mentorship that we must uphold. Additionally, figures like Ann Baumgartner, the first American woman to pilot a U.S. Army Air Force jet, and Eileen Collins, the first female Commander of a space shuttle, inspire us to continue breaking barriers. As we look forward to 2025, let us honor these women by committing ourselves to kindness and empowerment. Together, we can foster a community where every woman veteran feels valued, supported, and encouraged to soar to new heights.

Here's to an amazing 2025

NURSES TRAINING

Carrie Haynes - Chairman

We're excited to announce the details of the *La Presidente Nationale Cindy Hickey Nurses Training Program Awareness Initiative* to increase awareness and donations to the Voiture Nurses Training Program.

Phase I of the initiative in powering Cabanes to reach and identify **current nurses and advanced practice registered nurses** who give outstanding service by giving them formal recognition from the Cabane and Cabane Nationale. When the Cabanes awards the certificate to the nurses it creates an opportunity to bring awareness of the Nurses Training Program and ask nurses to assist us in sharing the information with students entering the nursing program. Also with fellow nurses and anyone who may help being awareness to the program or who wish to donate. The Cabanes would complete a application form for a current nurse to receive a Certificate of Outstanding Service Award. The Cabane will award a certificate from Cabane Nationale with a 2025 Nurses Training Pin and the Voiture Nationale Nurses Training Program Booklet.

Phase II - Expand on Phase I by adding a second application form for **current certified or licensed caregiver, healthcare workers, technicians or professional (whom are not a nurse or advanced degreed nurse)** to be recognized for giving outstanding service giving us additional opportunities to expand awareness. We will be rolling out Phase I & II together and Phase III out at a later time.

Phase III - Goal to help Cabanes do outreach to community, vocational, trade colleges and universities both public and private by working with the Nationale Nurses Training Director to create a guide with steps, to include a letter of introduction regarding the organization and the Nurses Training Program.

Nomination Procedure

The Locale Cabane completes the Application form, fee and submits it to the Cabane Nationale Nurses Training Chairman. Before you send the e-mail or mail, attach any supporting documents you wish to be consider and mail fee. Applicants are allowed up to three pages of supporting documents, and these should be submitted in the form of Microsoft Word, PDF, or by mail. All applications must go through the Locale Cabane and be signed by the Presidente and Correspondante before being submitted.

Awarding

The Nurses Training Chairman Cabane Nationale will review the application with documentation received from Cabanes. Once the review is complete the Chairman will notify the Cabane; and mail the certificate, pin with information to the Cabane. Winners will also be announced in the Chatter and other publications.

Submission Process

The process starts with a **Locale Cabane** submitting their application, \$25.00 application fee payable to Cabane Nationale and email or mail to Cabane Nationale Nurses Training Chairman **by September 1, 2025**. The \$25.00 application fee will help to cover the cost of mailings. Cabane Nationale will donate any remaining monies to the Nurses Training Program.

We will be working to placing the Initiative information, fillable Applications, Guidelines and Nurses Training Program information together on the Le Femmes website as well as mailing to the Cabanes.

I look forward to hearing your feedback and working with the Cabanes on La Presidente Nationale Cindy Hickey Initiative. We would like to thank Kevin Johnson, National Directeur Nurses Training for his coordination encouragement and assistance on this project. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

carrie.haynes@ymail.com or 517-206-1653

CARVILLE STAR

Janet Walsh - Chairman

Well, here we are entering a new year. Yes, 2025 is here. My name is Janet Walsh, and by way of introductions, I'm the 2024-2025 Chairman for Carville Star. During my year as the Nationale Presidente, Carville Star was my Program. We had a very successful year and I know we will have a repeat of that year. Hopefully, everyone had a great Holiday Season and are anxiously looking forward to 2025 and all of the exciting things a new year brings.

This year our La Nationale Presidente Cindy Hickey will be traveling to Carville, Louisiana, as an invited guest to the Cajun Wreck and we will be visiting Carville in February. We traveled to Carville together during my year as La Presidente. We met with the Curator of the Carville Museum and others talking about their experiences with Hansen's Disease and the meeting was very informative. We are looking forward to seeing all of the new changes brought about by the renovation, which was completed in May 2024. The renovation should have been completed years ago, but the many benefits of improved experiences for visitors and staff alike, made it worth the wait.

I feel this is a program that gets pushed aside because we don't understand this disease and the importance of supporting this program. For more information about Carville and Hansen's Disease, you can go to the 40/8 website.

You can reach me at: Janet Walsh, 4196 D'Youville Trace, Atlanta. (770-317-6225)

moose_w7@yahoo.com

Yours in service Janet Walsh

CHILD WELFARE

Judy Pfalzgraf - Chairman

Dames Thank you, for all you are doing for our Youths.

I received reports and pictures of all you are doing. Taking Christmas gifts to Children's Homes, taking names off of Giving Trees and buying gifts for those children. One (1) Cabane held a Halloween party for a children's home. One (1) Cabane donated a Thanksgiving Dinner to a family in need. Dames this is amazing. Keep up the good work.

I receive letters and reports from the National Voiture Child Welfare Directeur, and hear of all the wonderful things that they have been doing.

Just remember that we are in the cold winter months and keep watch for children who might need your help. You could hold a hat, coat and mitten drive. Donate good healthy food to your local food pantry. Donate children's books to your local library. There are so many things we can do.

Please just remember that when you pick a project that you get your Voiture to help out so that it is Voiture sponsored. Keep track of all you do for our Youth so that you can report it in your Year End Reports for Child Welfare.

If you have any questions or need help with your reports, please don't hesitate to call me at (920)-212-0007 or email me at rjpfalz7@gmail.com



La Nationale Presidente CINDY HICKEY'S Homecoming

April 3-5, 2025
Millennium Durham
2800 Campus Walk Avenue
Durham, NC 27705
(919) 383-8575

It is both an honor and a delight to serve as your La Presidente (and Queen of Woo). I sincerely hope your schedule permits you to join my homecoming celebration. All events will take place at the host hotel, Millennium Durham. The nearest airport is Raleigh/Durham Airport, and breakfast featuring both hot and cold options is included.

Room rates are \$105 per night for a king or double room, and rates for a king suite are available upon request, excluding sales tax. **Please make your reservations directly with the hotel and mention "La Presidente's Homecoming."** The deadline for reservations and ads is March 17, 2025.

THEME IS DIAMONDS, DENIM, AND PEARLS

RESERVATION FORM

Name _____ Date / Voyageur _____
Title _____
Name _____ Date / Voyageur _____
Title _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

PROGRAM ADS: Books will be 8.5x11 full color
Full Page \$70 1/2 Page \$35.00 1/4 Page \$25.00
Booster \$2.00
Banquet/Dinner Buffet Tickets: _____ x \$60.00 = _____

Send Registration & Payment by _____ Banquet Tickets _____
March 17th to: Cindy Hickey 1204 Phipps Ave Greensboro, NC 27405 Email Ad: Ad _____
cynhickey@aol.com Total _____

HOMECOMING

Paul J. Emmert, Sr.
Chef de Chemin de Fer

Best Western Plus Genetti Hotel & Conference Center
March 20-23, 2025
77 East Market Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL AT 570-823-6152 BY FEBRUARY 21, 2025.
MENTION "CHEF DE CHEMIN DE FER HOMECOMING" FOR THE \$99.00 RATE (+TAX) SINGLE OR DOUBLE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Thursday, March 20, 2025 3-4 PM Registration 3-11 PM Hospitality Room Friday, March 21, 2025 12-6 PM Registration 12-11 PM Hospitality Room Saturday, March 22, 2025 12-5 PM Hospitality Room 11-4 PM "Yuengling Tour" 6 PM Social Hour (Cash Bar) 7 PM Banquet (Formal) Hospitality Room Reopens after Banquet	PROGRAM BOOK ADS FULL PAGE \$70.00 HALF PAGE \$40.00 QUARTER PAGE \$25.00 BOOSTERS / FRIENDS \$2.00 (Mr. & Mrs. is \$4.00) PLEASE INCLUDE COPY OF AD WITH REGISTRATION PLEASE EMAIL AD COPY TO: C/CF2025@gmail.com	DINNER Chicken Marsala or Roast Beef with Gravy Served with Chef's Choice of Starch and Vegetable, Rolls and Butter, Ice Water, Iced Tea, and Coffee
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NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Booster Names: _____
Program Ad: Full Page _____ 1/2 Page _____ 1/4 Page _____ Boosters _____ \$ _____
Banquet Tickets: Chicken Marsala _____ Roast Beef _____ Tickets x \$50.00 = \$ _____
Yuengling Tour (Yes/No)? _____ # of Tickets? _____ Tickets x \$25.00 = \$ _____
**Yuengling tour is tentative, depending on number of attendees) TOTAL \$ _____

Make check payable to: Paul J. Emmert
Mail registration and check to: Paul J. Emmert, Sr. 345 Moores Branch Circle Westminster, MD 21158

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION AND ADS: MARCH 1, 2025

background check, and is just waiting on your badge, will probably be able to receive your badge. If you haven't attended orientation, you will have to wait until the hiring freeze is lifted. Keep recruiting! This won't last forever!

Occasional volunteers (those who haven't attended orientation and don't have a badge, or who only volunteer with an unassigned group, or those who only volunteer on occasion) may still be able to conduct visitation, etc.

I have received several requests for hospital representatives and some areas have requested a leadership representative to attend Town Halls and be a voice for our organization. Is this something you could do? Let me know. Are you in a Grande that doesn't have any hospital representatives or a VAVS Grand Directeur? Could you step into any of these positions? We need many more volunteers to fill all the vacancies.

If you are currently volunteering and serving as a hospital representative or deputy representative, I need a certification form for each of you. I am updating the master file, and I do not have documentation for everyone. This is something that needs to be expedited for accountability.

Send me some photos and articles to share in my newsletters and let everyone know what you've been up to and what your facility has accomplished.

En Service - D Davis

77th Southland's Dixie Promenade 2025

April 24 - 26, 2025

PLEASE PRINT

REGISTRATION BADGES WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL EVENTS

Name Last _____ First: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____ Vehicle License #: _____ Cabare #: _____ du: _____
Email: _____ Phone #: _____
National/Grand Office held: _____

REGISTRATION Due before 4/4/2025

Includes Friday Beer Bash, Hospitality Room, and Banquet, & Ptc: One at \$70.00 _____
Banquet choice: Roast Beef _____ Smoked Turkey _____
Early Bird Party Thursday Night one at \$20.00 _____
TOTAL _____

HOTEL RESERVATIONS MADE BY MARCH 15 2025
TO BE MADE DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL!

Glenstone Lodge 504 Historic Nature Trail, Gettysburg, TN 37738
Phone Numbers: (865) 436-5363 Fax: (865) 436-5021 Rates 129.+ tax

Mention Southland's Dixie for special room rate

MAIL REGISTRATION & AD Information to: Vulture 735 40 & 8 Attn: SL Dixie
make checks payable to same P.O. Box 2153
Cleveland, TN 37320-2153
P.O.C. 423 716 3370 leave message Cx 423 364 9119 408vulture735@gmail.com
AD BOOK AD Dead line March 1, 2025 List Boosters / In memory of
\$2.00 each name list on back of registration form
Full Page 8x11 color \$80.00 Half Page 8x5.5 color \$45.00 Quarter Page color \$25.00
Email copy to: gropsphoto@yahoo.com Subject: SL Dixie Ad

VAVS

Directeur - D Davis

Here we are in 2025. I hope you all had a festive and healthy holiday season and you're ready to roll into this new year. I spent Christmas in Idaho watching the snow fall and hanging out with family. Several delays and a few extended stays in the airports and a long drive here and there gave me an opportunity to reflect on many of my blessings. I also, was often reminded of the patience that I lack and the inability to take charge in those situations and "get something done right away" or "done the right way". I had to acknowledge that others could accomplish the same things in different ways through different skillsets. Oh boy! That one was tough! It's the same way with volunteering. We're all different, yet it takes all of us to keep things in order and running smoothly. We must acknowledge and embrace the differences between us. We can all get along. Well, most of us, anyway. That's not saying we might not have to ask for a different position someday or relocate a volunteer sometimes to keep things moving forward progressively and keep the program intact. Just a few months ago, we went through a realignment within the VHA and the CDCE ended up falling under a different department. This probably looks quite different from one facility to the next and I hope your facility was able to transition smoothly. If you have any questions or concerns, let me know and I will look for answers or instructions.



I am looking forward to hearing from you all. Some of you let me know you had been super busy with preparing for the holiday season and I'm excited to see what you're going to send in.

With only 2 months left, this is a good time to send in your submissions for Keep the Wheelchairs Rolling 2025. This is an opportunity for your facility to request something for your veterans. What can you ask for that will serve the most veterans and be most beneficial? Please remember this contest does not include staff members or civilians, it is for veterans only. Our VAVS program is not funded by pin sales as many other programs are. Your donations to the VAVS program are used to assist veterans being served at our VA healthcare centers and clinics. Just a short explanation of what you are requesting, how much it will cost and how many veterans you will be able to serve is sufficient. Please include your contact information as well as your facility Representative. (Some of us have several facilities to care for.) The deadline for submissions is 31 March 2025.

There is a federal hiring freeze currently in effect. Volunteers are affected by this freeze because we are considered WOC (without compensation) employees. For all who have current badges and are regularly scheduled volunteers, you may continue to work in your assignments. Anyone who has attended orientation and completed your

POW MIA

POW MIA Chairman - Lori Bolley

The POW MIA program is a scholarship trust fund that was designed to honor the Servicemen and Women who were prisoners of war or are considered missing in action while serving in defense of our country and its allies. The scholarships are given to direct descendants of those Men and Women. This program sells pins, and merchandise, we are still participating in the Pennies for POW/MIA.

The program was established in 1995 as part of Americanism and became a separate program in 1996. This is a survivor's scholarship designed for all survivors not just elite to La Societe members. This program is worth a lot to HONOR those Servicemen and Women who are not FORGOTEN in the hearts of many.

If you have never taken a moment to look at the POW/MIA page on the Nationale website, you really should take a few minutes of your time to read everything there is about the program. You can go directly here: <https://www.fortvandeight.org/powmia>. It's worth the time and effort to learn more.

How are you raising funds for the program? I am wondering if anyone does anything different to raise monies above and beyond selling merchandise and collecting pennies. I know locally we have done dinners in the past, but I am curious to know if and what you do, please shoot me an email. Let's stive harder this year to raise more monies and to bring more attention to the program and what it does.

I hope you take this time to learn more, I hope you think outside the box to raise funds for this program it is important on more levels. This is another program in the community which impacts the lives of many who may not yet be a veteran or help a younger veteran who has not chosen an organization to belong to yet. Let us not forget the Missing in Action Servicemen and woman are not home to choose an organization either. Please take a moment to remember not all our Family is safe and at home, let us not take this for granted.

Try to think outside the box for fundraising for POW MIA program. If we all do what we can our whole will meet any goal.

Yours in Service - Lori A Bolley



64th Great Lakes Promenade

June 5, 6 & 7, 2025

Wisconsin-Michigan-Illinois-Indiana-Ohio-New York-Pennsylvania

Hosted by the Grande Voiture d' Illinois, Voyageurs & Dames

All attendees are responsible to make their own hotel reservations. The block of rooms will expire on May 16, 2025. All prices are plus tax. When reserving your room, say you are with the 4088 Block of Rooms and you are attending the 64th Great Lakes Promenade. Any problems with your hotel reservations, contact Frank Beierloizer, 815-901-3834 or ffb66@juno.com.

Headquarters Host Hotel Site
Red Roof Inn and Suites, 1212 West Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, Illinois 60115
815-758-8661, WWW.DEKALB.REDROOF.COM
Two levels with no elevator. If you are able to do steps, please reserve an upper level so that those that need a lower level will have a room available at the Headquarters Host Site. Lower level \$94.99 and Upper Level \$85.99.

Overflow Hotel
Comfort Inn, 1314 W. Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, Illinois 60115, 815-748-7100, 11321@staychoice.com
\$105.00 and there is an elevator. About .1 miles west of Host Hotel Site.



Registration Form

Anticipated arrival day: _____ Name: _____ Title: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Grande: _____ Voiture# & Name: _____
Guest Name: _____ Phone: _____ Title: _____

Registration (\$50.00) per person includes Host Site Hospitality Room and Banquet.
Registrations: # _____ Times (\$60.00) Equals \$ _____ Check# _____

All checks payable to: Voiture 207-64th GLP Any Questions: Todd Latham
Mail to: Todd Latham, 115 Boulevard St, Sandwich, IL 60548 815-786-4095, lathamtodd@yahoo.com

Tours, events, banquet meal selection, program schedule, ad booklet will be available in early 2025.

106th PROMENADE & 62nd RENDEZVOUS NATIONALE
GETTYSBURG, PA
SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2025
GRANDE du PENNSYLVANIE & GRANDE du MARYLAND HOSTS

AD ORDER FORM BOOK SIZE 8 1/2" X 11"

FULL PAGE \$150.00 _____ HALF PAGE \$75.00 _____

QUARTER PAGE \$50.00 _____ BUSINESS CARD \$25.00 _____

INSIDE BACK COVER \$250.00 _____

OUTSIDE BACK COVER \$350.00 _____

BOOSTERS \$2.00 EACH NAME _____

ADVERTISERS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE # & EMAIL: _____

PLEASE RETURN AD FORM AND MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
"PENNSYLVANIA PROMENADE CORPORATION"

MAIL ALL MONIES TO:

Dave Kessling
 92 Eves Street
 Port Matilda, PA 16870
 EMAIL: davekessling@comcast.net

Grande du Pennsylvania & Grande du Maryland invite you to attend the
106th Promenade & 62nd Rendezvous Nationale
Gettysburg, PA
September 23-27, 2025
Explore Civil War History in Gettysburg

Date Form Completed _____

PLEASE SUBMIT SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH REGISTRANT

Payment by Check (Enter Check Number): _____

Payment by Credit Card (Check one Below)

VISA Master Card Discover

Card Number: _____

Card Exp Date: Month _____ Year _____ CVV _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

BILLING ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE FOR CREDIT CARD REQUIRED

BILLING ADDRESS _____

BILLING ZIP CODE _____

Quantity	Description	Amount
# _____	Voyageur's Registration @ \$30.00 (NON-REFUNDABLE)	\$ _____
# _____	Voyageur's Late Reg. Fee (AFTER 6/1/25) @ \$35	\$ _____
Grande Voiture: _____	Voiture Locale: _____	
# _____	Dame's Registration @ \$25.00	\$ _____
Grande Cabane: _____	Cabane Locale: _____	
# _____	La Presidente Luncheon (9/25/25) @ \$35.00	\$ _____
# _____	Early Bird (9/23/25) Tickets @ \$30.00	\$ _____
# _____	Banquet (9/26/25) Tickets @ \$45.00 each	\$ _____

SELECT ONE MEAL FOR EACH ATTENDEE

London Broil _____

Citrus Peppercorn Tilapia _____

REGISTRATION AND RESERVATIONS

Promenade Registration must be received by August 31, 2025

PROMENADE REGISTRATION FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

ALL VOYAGEURS & DAMES MUST REGISTER WITH THE PROMENADE NATIONALE CORPORATION

Please provide your credit card information or make your check payable to

"106th Promenade Corporation"

Mail form and payment to:

Voiture Nationale
 1635 Hawthorne Drive
 Plainfield, IN. 46168

Or Email to ttaylor@fortyandeight.org

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Must be made by August 20, 2025

Additional forms are online at www.fortyandeight.org

HANDICAP ROOMS ARE LIMITED. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS WHEN MAKING YOUR REQUEST. HANDICAP ROOMS ARE ASSIGNED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS.

THE EISENHOWER (HQ) AND ASPIRE HOTELS ARE FOR BOTH VOYAGEURS AND DAMES

ALL VOYAGEURS & DAMES WILL BE EXPECTED TO MAKE THEIR RESERVATION WITH THE HOTEL DIRECTLY

RESERVATION LINKS:


EISENHOWER (HQ) HOTEL: <https://bit.ly/3TevF28>

ASPIRE HOTEL: <https://bit.ly/M3MzliWt>

OR YOU CAN CALL
 1-717-334-8121


MAKE SURE TO LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE THERE FOR 106th PROMENADE & 62nd RENDEZVOUS NATIONALE

NOTE: Rates ONLY available through Promenade Nationale Corporation



39th Annual Gator Wreck
Hosted by:
Voiture & Cabane 1067
May 1st, 2nd, 3rd 2025
Goose Creek, SC

****NOTICE DATE CHANGE and HOTEL CHANGE****



Registration: \$60.00 per person (includes Hospitality room at hotel and Saturday night Banquet). Non Voiture 1067 PG's must register prior to 18 April, 2025. Fee is \$65.00 which includes supplies, breakfast and Banquet. Sponsors responsible for PG's Chapeau.

Friday: Registration in Hospitality room 12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM @ Holiday Inn Express

Then off to American Legion Post 166 for Dinner (Post menu) 6:00- 7:30 PM or where ever you want to eat. PG Trials @ 8:00 pm.

Saturday:
 PG's report to Post 166 at 6:00 am.
 Active Wreck 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
 Sausage Biscuits, Donuts and Coffee will be available at the post.

Social Hour 6-7 pm (cash bar), Dinner 7-8 pm, Banquet 8-9 pm @ Post 166

Sunday Morning Breakfast available (order from menu) at the Post 8-11am

Headquarters Hotel: Holiday Inn Express N. Charleston
 2435 Elm Center Road, North Charleston SC 29406

Room Rate: Thursday- Saturday- \$139.00 plus tax... BREAKFAST AVAILABLE CUT-OFF for Rate: 18 April, 2025 Mention code: 40/8 Gator Wreck

For additional information contact; William "Bill" Simpson, Wreck Chairman 843-509-3109 or e-mail wsimpson204@comcast.net

PROGRAM BOOK (5 X 7) ADS:
 Full page--\$50.00
 Half page--\$35.00
 Cut off for Ads: April 18th, 2025
 Email ads to dsimpson204@comcast.net
 Mail payment to: Voiture 1067
 C/O Dell Simpson
 288 Mayfield Dr, Goose Creek, SC 29445.
 Phone # 843-830-9986

Cabane 1067 will have lunch available Saturday from 11:00 am- 1:00 pm (TBD)

SHUTTLE SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____ VOITURE: _____ STATE _____


OFFICE: _____ PHONE#: _____

DAME /GUEST NAME: _____

OFFICE: _____ CABANE# _____ STATE _____

Make checks payable to Voiture 1067 and mail to Dell Simpson, 288 Mayfield Dr Goose Creek SC 29445 for pre- registration.

CORRESPONDANTS CHALLENGE



Correspondant National - Ron Rolfes

The Grand du Penysylvanie and du Maryland will be your hosts for the

106th Promenade and 62nd Rendezvous Nationale in Gettysburg, PA

September 23 - 27, 2025

The challenge is to surpass last years of number 70 Grande, Cabane, or Locale entries.

I am challenging ALL Grandes and Cabanes to submit a minimum Half Page Ad for the program book. (If we get 100% participation, each Grand Chef de Gare or Grande Cabane La Presidente will receive a token of my appreciation).

The Grand or Cabane with the most Locales represented in the program book (at a minimum of a Quarter Page Ad per Voiture Locale or Cabane) will receive the Grand Prize to be announced at the Banquet in Gettysburg on Friday September 26, 2025.

There is no time like the present to get your ad order in.

Full page	\$150.00	Half Page	\$75.00
Quarter Page	\$50.00	Business Card	\$25.00
Booster	\$2.00 ea.		

Go to www.fortyandeight.org/promenade-nationale then click on the ad form.