

THE BADGER FORTY et EIGHTER



VOLUME 59 NUMBER 1

THE HONOR SOCIETY OF AMERICAN VETERANS

MARCH/APRIL/MAY 2025

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SCENES FROM THE BANQUET

Grand Chef de Gare's Message

Ken Laatsch



Greetings, fellow Voyageurs! I hope all are staying safe and healthy this winter. It's my favorite season of the year: no bugs, no sweating, and plenty of time for ice fishing.

Our Midwinter Promenade Feb. 7-8 in Appleton was well attended. Voyageur Jim Vissers always does a stand-up job making arrangements not only for our meetings, but also for some of our extracurricular activities. Not bad for a Navy guy! Of course, not even Jim can plan the weather, so naturally, it snowed. Luckily, we didn't have to drive very far through the snow, and by Sunday morning it had stopped, and the roads were clear for our drive home. Voiture 1130 deserves a round of applause for doing an outstanding job the entire weekend.

The highlight of my year, which will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of my entire life, was the weekend I spent in Texas in January. I was chosen to participate in an all-inclusive hunt based on my military service in Vietnam, my commitment to community service, and my love of hunting. The location was Thumbtack Ranch, owned and operated by Trinity Oaks Outdoors.

Trinity Oaks Outdoors is a non-profit organization that believes in the healing power of the outdoors. Every year, Trinity Oaks Outdoors organizes programming for more than 2,000 youth and families, over 1,500 military Veterans, and many others who can benefit from the therapeutic power of nature.

I was completely blown away by the dedication and selflessness of those who own, volunteer, and donate to this ranch. Every wish, whim and want I could ask for was satisfied, no questions asked. "It's all about the Vets" is what I heard. And I have never before been called "sir," but that is the way I was addressed the whole time I was there. It was a very humbling experience that I will never forget. I want to thank Kathy Laatsch for submitting my nomination.

On a more somber note, I lost a fellow Marine who retired a Sergeant Major after 22 years in the Corps. He had been a good friend of mine for over 40 years. I attended his memorial service in Phillips. He will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

It won't be long before the warm weather arrives (and with it the bugs and the sweating, but what can you do?) We'll be doing our annual spring clean-up at Rainbow Flowage May 16-17, Great Lakes Promenade in DeKalb, Illinois June 5-8, Camp American Legion's 100th anniversary celebration June 14, and our Forty and Eight Days at Camp June 20-22. Hope to see many of you at some of these events.

*Langlade County Voiture 1204
is Proud to Host the 2025*

GRANDE VOITURE DE WISCONSIN **GRANDE PROMENADE & RENDEZVOUS**

**July 31–August 2
Antigo**

Registration Form

Headquarters Hotel Holiday Inn Express

2407 Neva Road US Hwy 45
Antigo, WI 54409
715-627-7500

Mention the 40 & 8 when making reservations
Room Rate: \$143 Thursday — \$148 Friday & Saturday
Deadline for Reservation is June 30

Registration: \$10 each

Name _____

Name _____

Committee Meetings to be held
at the Holiday Inn Express on Thursday
Friday & Saturday at the North Star Lanes
— across the parking lot

5 p.m. Banquet will consist of Broasted Chicken & Beef Tips

Banquet Fee: \$33 each Number Attending _____

Ads: \$80 Full Page; \$50 Half Page; \$30 Quarter Page

Boosters: \$2 _____

Checks should be made out to Voiture #1204
Email copy of ad to: stevepkst@gmail.com

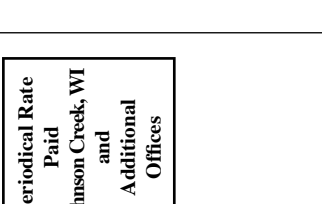
Send Registration Form to: Steve Bradley
233 Park St.
Antigo, WI 54409

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WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

PAGE 8



PANCAKES AND SAUSAGE

Periodical Rate
Paid
Johnson Creek, WI
and
Additional
Offices

Grande Voiture de Wisconsin
312 Hillside Circle
Johnson Creek, WI 53038-9700



Twelve Grand Chefs de Gare

Twelve past and present Grand Chefs de Gare are photographed with Invited Guest Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Lonnie Haynes at Appleton. They are L to R: Tom Orval - 2008, Don Emley - 2007, John Aasen - 2021, Ron Pfalzgraf - 2009, Ken Laatsch - present, Lonnie Haynes, Dale Mitchell - 2015, Jim Vissers - 2011, John Helgeson - 2013, Jim Bassett - 2020, Dave Behling - 2024, John Edelblute - 2023, Doug Schaller - 2018.



GRAND VOITURE OFFICERS 2025

Grand Chef de Gare	Ken Laatsch	Phillips
Grand Chef de Train	Melissa Guthmiller	Tomah
Grand Sous Chef de Train	George Heck	Green Bay
Grand Conducteur	Jack Vissers	Appleton
Grand Garde de la Porte	Andrew Minch	Milwaukee
Grand Commis Voyageur	Lori Zimmerman	Tomah
Grand Aumonier	Ray Kline	Onalaska
Grand Avocat	John Helgeson	Hudson
Grand Historien	Dale Mitchell	Eagle
Grand Commissaire Intendant	Jim Vissers	Appleton
Grand Sous Commissaire Intendant	Ray Pasbrig	Racine
Grand Sous Commissaire Intendant	George Heck	Green Bay
Cheminot National	John Edelblute IV	Cudahy
Alternate Cheminot National	Dave Behling	Lake Mills
Grand Correspondant	Tom Orval	Johnson Creek
Grand Sous Correspondant	John Edelblute IV	Cudahy

GRAND CHEMINOT 2025

Region 1	Raymond Pasbrig	Racine
Region 2	Mikki Bradley	Tomah
Region 3	Jim Vissers	Appleton
Region 4	John Helgeson	Hudson



THE BADGER FORTY & EIGHTER STAFF

Grand L'editeur	Tom Orval
Grand Sous L'editeur	John Helgeson
Grande Cabane Sous L'editeur	Mary Orval
Production Manager	Berlin Journal Newspapers
Committee Members	Steve Bradley Beth Laatsch

Headquarters: 312 Hillside Circle, Johnson Creek, WI 53038-9700
 Phone: 920-699-5676
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REPRESENTING LA SOCIETE FEMME GRANDE CABANE DE WISCONSIN

La Grande Presidente	Beth Laatsch	Phillips
La Grande Correspondante	Mary Orval	Johnson Creek

Badger Forty et Eighter is published every three months by Grand Voiture de Wisconsin.

(USPS #014-222) 312 Hillside Dr., Johnson Creek, WI 53038-9700
 Periodicals postage paid at Johnson Creek, WI and additional mailing office, Berlin, WI 54923.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Grand Voiture de Wisconsin, 312 Hillside Circle, Johnson Creek, WI 53038-9700

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you are moving, advise Headquarters of your new address as soon as possible before you move. The Grand pays 50 cents for each newspaper that cannot be delivered to the address as shown.

GRAND CHEF DE GARE'S PASSE GRANDE VOITURE DE WISCONSIN

1986 Ralph Ricker	2014 Lloyd Granberg
1992 Jerome Warner	2015 Dale Mitchell
1998 Gary Dotzauer	2016 Ken Kozubek
2001 Roger Oleson	2017 Richard Ruland
2002 Carl Sjolander	2018 Doug Schaller
2003 Lloyd Koeller	2019 Joe Story
2007 Don Emley	2020 Jim Bassett
2008 Tom Orval	2021 John Aasen
2009 Ron Pfalzgraf	2022 Larry Winger
2011 Jim Vissers	2023 John Edelblute IV
2013 John Helgeson	2024 Dave Behling



GRAND CORRESPONDANT

Thomas J. Orval



It is promising to be a very busy spring in the Grande Voiture de Wisconsin. Let's start with membership. Wisconsin is 95 short of 100%. We have 11 Locales who are at or above 100% for 2025. I'm especially happy with Eau Claire Voiture # 525. Last year they sent in their membership but it got lost in the mail and National didn't receive their 2024 dues until this January. Their charter was revoked (surrendered) at the

National Promenade. Through the efforts of Grand Avocat John Helgeson and National Avocat Bill Stroud everything is restored and Eau Claire is now 100% for 2025.

The 2025 Grande Midwinter Promenade was once again a fantastic success. Everything went extremely well except for the weather when we received 7" inches of the white stuff on Saturday. Our invited guest, Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Lonnie Haynes of Michigan, along with wife Carrie, were outstanding guests. Mid-term reports from the Directeurs, Chairpersons and Grande Voiture Officers were all very informative and for the most part very interesting.

All 2025 National Communique reports were either distributed to the Locales who attended the Midwinter Petite or they were mailed. These were sent only to the Locales who fill them out each year and send them back to Grande Headquarters. I cannot stress enough on filling out these reports because that's how your Locale receives credit for the hard work you perform in these different programs.

We have nomination papers in for everyone who is planning on moving up the steps (Line Officers) to becoming the Grand Chef de Gare. That is for all but Grand Commis Voyageur. There have been some inquiries but nothing definite as of yet.

The Great Lakes Promenade is in Dekalb, IL this coming June 5th, 6th & 7th. Being that it's so close to Wisconsin I am expecting a very large turnout of Voyageurs and Dames from God's Country. Reservation forms are on the National website and in the Forty et Eighter magazine. NOTE: The Red Roof Inn is the Headquarters hotel and they do not have an elevator.

It's taken a while but most Locales and Cabanes received mailing lists of all of your members. I've asked for you to go over the list and send corrections back so the Grande Headquarters list can be updated. This mailing list is for the Badger Forty et Eighter.

May 16th & 17th are the dates for the annual spring clean-up at Rainbow Flowage. Most of us are staying at the Rustic Manor in St. Germain. You can reach them by calling 715-479-9776. Raking, mopping and general cleaning will be the order of the day.

Have just returned from Richland Center this morning after attending their annual Pancake & Sausage All You Can Eat Breakfast for their Nurses Training Scholarship Fund. Many Voyageurs traveled from all over Wisconsin for this event. They came from Tomah, Milwaukee, Racine, Green Bay, Madison, Marshall and Jefferson County. It's always a great time visiting with our fellow Voyageurs and Dames, with the camaraderie we have here in the Badger State second to none.

FAITH FAMILY FORTY et EIGHT

Grand Voiture Membership 2025 MARCH 1

VOITURE/COUNTY	AREA	2024	2025
236 POLK-BURNETT	1	28	23
260 TREMPLEALEAU	4	30	26
410 KENOSHA	3	20	19
497 RACINE	3	11	12 **
525 EAU CLAIRE	1	5	5 *
526 WALWORTH	3	4	5 **
652 SAUK	3	19	25 **
683 DANE	2	30	20
750 JEFFERSON	3	39	36
751 WINNEBAGO	2	20	17
774 BROWN-KEWAUNEE	1	38	36
804 MONROE	4	38	37
821 CLARK	1	15	10
830 LA CROSSE	4	81	61
831 PORTAGE	2	21	23 **
840 COLUMBIA	2	6	8 **
844 ROCK	3	7	6
856 DODGE	2	27	20
898 WASHINGTON	2	16	15
904 PIERCE	4	43	41
986 SHAWANO	1	37	24
1080 SHEBOYGAN	2	11	9
1139 WOOD	4	4	4 *
1140 OUTAGAMIE	2	25	28 **
1156 VILAS - ONEIDA			
- LINCOLN	1	14	11
1204 LANGLADE	1	38	38 *
1268 RICHLAND	4	41	35
1323 JUNEAU	2	31	10
1372 GRANT	3	9	9 *
1455 IOWA	3	8	8 *
1485 ST. CROIX	1	5	1
1519 MILWAUKEE	3	39	33

TOTAL 760 665
**** OVER THE TOP (6) * 100% (11)**

AREA STANDINGS

	2024	2025	Percent
AREA 1 - 2nd Place			George Heck
TOTALS	180	148	84.57%
AREA 2 - 4th Place			Jack Vissers
TOTALS	187	161	86.09%
AREA 3 - 1st Place			Andy Minch
TOTALS	156	153	98.07%
AREA 4 - 3rd Place			Lori Zimmerman
TOTALS	237	203	85.65%
GRAND TOTAL	760	665	87.49%
		-95	

WASHINGTON COUNTY VOITURE #898

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

GRANDE DE WISCONSIN HOME OF

Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Passe - Dave Wegener
 Grand Chef de Gare Passe - Roland Moericke
 Germantown Post #1
 Courtney-Carr-Milner Hartford Post #19
 Lt. Ray Dickop West Bend Post #36
 Robert G. Romaine Kewaskum Post #384
 Fohl Martin Allenton Post #483
 S. Sgt Henry F. Gumm Jackson Post #486
 Goetz - St. Louis Hubertus Post #522

Chef de Gare
 Joe Leone

Correspondant
 Mary Millikin

Commissaire Intendant
 Mark Baldwin



Lest We Forget

MARCH - APRIL - MAY

VOYAGEURS

LOREN JOHNSON	V-236
RUSSELL HENENBALG	V-652
CLETUS CONRAD	V-774
RONALD PAPLHAM	V-774
RICHARD VOGEL	V-774
DAN CHEESBRO	V-830
ART GRAN	V-830
LINUS KUJAK	V-830
FRANK MATHISON	V-830
LAVERNE SCHOH	V-830
BRUCE SMITH	V-830
DONNA THORNSEN	V-830
JACK TURNER	V-830
JAMES WINDER	V-830
COLIN HANDEYSIDE	V-1204
SIDNEY NOWINSKY	V-1204
MICHAEL PALMER	V-1204
ANTHONY WITKOWSKI	V-1519

LA FEMME

JOYCE CURRAN C-526

MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE



Scenes from the Banquet



AT LEFT: Doug wants the raffles to begin. ABOVE: Is John behaving himself?

ADDRESS CHANGE / CORRECTION
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CONTACT US
 Phone: 920-699-5676 • Cell: 920-253-3064
 wigrandvoiture@spectrum.net

Best wishes from your friends at
Voiture Locale 804
Monroe County
 Promenades Held The Third Wednesday of Each month
 @ The Tomah American Legion 1900hrs

Chef de Gare: Lori Zimmerman
 Correspondant: Melissa Guthmiller
 Commissaire Intendant: Eric Diekmann

Get Wrecked With Us

DANE COUNTY
Voiture & Cabane 683

GRAND CHEF DE GARE PASSE

Reginald C. Golden	1961	Tom Borman	1999
Lloyd Richardson	1968	Ken Kozubek	2016
Jim Wages	1988	Richard Ruland	2017

CHEF DE GARE: Richard Ruland
CORRESPONDANT: Keith Lovell
COMMISSAIRE INTENDANT: Gerri Scalissi

JUNEAU COUNTY
VOITURE LOCALE
1323

CHEF DE GARE: Everett Burdick
CORRESPONDANT: Jim Frisch

Wisconsin's Only
Nurses Training
Scholarship Forest



A Job Well Done

Grand Chef de Gare Ken presents a special award to Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Lonnie Haynes for his outstanding work with the programs and membership of La Societe.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Ron Pflzgraf, Grand Directeur

I am starting this out by begging for **NOMINATIONS** for Special Awards. Last year there were no Applications sent to me to make the deadline for Nationale. Please! By this time every Voiture in Wisconsin knows about the programs. They are: Voyageur, Law Officer, Hero and City/Town of the Year. Also: Wisconsin has one for here under the age of 18. Special Awards nominations can be sent to me at any time but are due by June 15, 2025. Remember that all nominations must be accompanied by

a Participation Reporting Form to be considered. Each Locale may enter only (1) candidate for each of the Awards. To quote Nationale Sous Directeur Sean Johnson: "While this process can be time-consuming, it is an important role of our organization to support our communities and neighbors who are doing amazing work. Please review material available on the Nationale Website under Resources, then Forms etc., then 2025 Petite Communique, it is easy to find."

Important: The Generals Club supports the Special Awards Program through their Funds, which are generated by their annual dues of \$10. I have applications if anyone is interested. There is also a new program called the **BLUE CHEVALIERS**, that also supports the Law Enforcement Program. Please email me for more information if interested. If you have any questions or need help in any way, please call me at 920-485-0107, or 920-214-3202 cell or email me at rjpfalz8@gmail.com.

Visit Grand Voiture de Wisconsin on the Web at www.wifortyandeight.com

CARVILLE STAR
 Jim Witte, Grand Directeur

We wish to thank everyone who signed up for "The Star" subscription of the semi-annual publication. Such great and fascinating stories about Carville Star and for just \$2 a year. The subscription that just came out is still available if you subscribe right away. Hansen's Disease is a complex infectious disease which, although recognized for more than two thousand years and found to be caused by a bacterium over a century ago, is not completely understood. Dr. Gerhard Amauer Hansen, a Norwegian scientist, first discovered the HS bacillus in 1873. Considerable progress has been made during the last 40 years, so that today we can treat the majority of the cases without difficulty and counteract most of the fears generated by the folklore surrounding the disease. HD affects the skin, peripheral nerves, and sometimes other tissues, notably the eye, the mucosa of the upper respiratory tract and the testes. There are both localized and disseminated forms of HD. If left untreated, HD causes nerve damage which can result in loss of muscle control and crippling of hands and feet. Eye involvement can result in blindness.

Grande Voiture de Wisconsin
Past Chef de Gares Club

ORGANIZED FOR THE CAMARADERIE OF OUR FELLOW VOYAGEURS

For More Information Contact

President Ron Pflzgraf	Vice President John Edelblute	Secretary Tom Orval
Sgts - At - Arms Lori Zimmerman & Dave Behling		



Monroe County Voiture #804 Assists Fire Victims in Ontario, Sparta

On October 16, 2024, we assisted a family with one child from Sparta, that had a fire. There was a slight language barrier; but we figured it out. There are translator apps out there if any other voyageurs need them.

On October 30, 2024, we assisted a family from Ontario, that has 4 children, that also suffered a house fire. Ontario is actually in a neighboring county without a locale; so, we stepped up to assist the family.

In October our locale voted to partner with Monroe County Christmas for Kids again. We used \$500 from our locale's funds and passed the hat at both the October and November promenades. As always, our voyageurs were very generous and we had a total of \$1,100 to help make Christmas brighter for 13 local children. Each child received clothing, shoes and toys of their liking. We also were able to get many rolls of wrapping paper that the organization provided to the families.



SHEBOYGAN COUNTY VOITURE / CABANE #1080

Chef de Gare
Mark Degner



Correspondant
Joe Ternes

Presidente
Mary Orval



Correspondante
Barbara Dotzauer

Working Together As One We Get The Job Done

Milwaukee County Voiture 1519

Member of the Mighty 4th District

Chef de Gare
Andrew Minch



&



Correspondant
Linda Pfeiffer

Traveling Bags Appreciation Award



On March 3, the owners of Traveling Bags in Milwaukee were presented with a plaque from the Grande Voiture de Wisconsin for their donation of a special canvas traveling bag for the Grande Voiture Colors and a cart for the stands. Doing the presentation were Voyageurs John Edelblute and Andrew Minch. L to R: John Edelblute, Holly Robertson, Gretchen Robers, Burt Robertson, and Andrew Minch.

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux



**The Voyageurs And
Dames Of**



**Shawano County #986
Voiture & Cabane**

Home of Grand Chef de Gare Passe
Norman Kelly Ralph Ricker
Norman Habeck Roger Oleson
Lloyd Koeller Don Jahnke Bob Polaske

La Grande Presidente Passe
Marjorie Ricker Jermaine Engel
Rosemary Koeller Liz Jahnke



Chef de Gare
Correspondant
Commissaire Intendant
Cabane Presidente
Cabane Correspondante

Jack Beggs
Arien Herminath
Phil Nelson
Sandra Beggs
Kathy Gramza

FORTY ET EIGHT DAYS AT CAMP AMERICAN LEGION

Tom Orval, Chairman



We are expecting a large number of first time visitors to the 56th annual Forty et Eight Days at Camp this year. Word is spreading about what an awesome time everyone has. As a matter of fact, we are considering opening the weekend up to our out-of-state 40 et 8 family members.

Many of us are up on Thursdays. Camaraderie is the name of the game with plenty of food and beverage. Trips to Saynor for pizza or to Fibbers or Clearview for supper. Many just go over to Timbers for a sandwich. There is a new eatery/adult beverage venue we are planning on checking out and that is the Pine Knot Tavern. They have been remodeling this place for the last year and it might be worth our time to see what they have to offer. Every evening, weather permitting, is a bonfire. If enough are interested, we'll be going over to Three Lakes Friday morning for wine tasting at the Three Lakes winery or shopping at Eagle River or Minocqua. The Bean Bag Tournament is on Friday afternoon with the picnic behind the Rustic Manor and a fishing tournament Saturday morning. It will be either at the Rainbow Flowage, Big Carr Lake or Lake Tomahawk depending where Dale Mitchell decides to have the event.

The annual Saturday afternoon picnic has not changed except we have bingo games in the pavilion and boat/pontoon rides on the Rainbow Flowage. We heard that they drained the Flowage again this winter so that might not take place. One thing is for certain and that is there are no more meetings. We're all there to enjoy ourselves and each others' company.

This year the annual event is scheduled for June 19 – 21. The Friday Bean Bag Tournament will begin at 1:30 p.m. behind the Rustic Manor. To make Hotel Reservations at the Rustic Manor, call 715-479-9776, mention the Forty et Eight and ask for Bob or Jackie.

One last item I need to mention. The card game "GOLF" has really turned into a big event played on both Friday and Saturday evenings in the breakfast area.

GRAND CONDUCTEUR

Jack Vissers

If you do not have your 2025 membership card, you are delinquent in your membership. You will not be able to attend your locale promenades. Please check your membership card and if you still have a 2024 membership card, contact your Locale Correspondant. If any of the locale correspondants need help securing delinquent members in Area 2, please contact me.

I hope everyone that attended the Grand Midwinter Petite had a good time. Some of us went to dinner at George's Steak House on Thursday evening. Friday was the committee meetings and many went for fish at the Legion Post. Saturday was the Midwinter with the banquet in the evening. I did help with the registration and raffles seeing is how my locale was hosting the event.

On February 22, I helped La Grande Presidente Beth with the yearly meat raffle in Phillips. It was a good time and the Cabane made some money to support their programs. This has been a yearly event for me the last couple of years.

GRAND GARDE DE LA PORTE

Andrew Minch

Due to unforeseen circumstances, I missed out on going to the Midwinter Promenade. I was told it was an outstanding weekend and enjoyed by all that were in attendance.

On another note, I would like to congratulate all the Locales in Area 3 as we stand at 98.07%. That puts us in first place in membership with just three more renewals or new members to reach 100%. Keep up the good work that you're doing and remember it's never too late to sign up the ones that wait till the last minute to renew.

I am looking forward to the Grande Promenade in Antigo and meeting old and new friends alike.



Wreaths Across America

December 14, 2024 was the Wreaths Across America ceremony at cemeteries across the United States. The Grande de Wisconsin was represented at Northwoods National Cemetery by Grand Chef de Gare Ken Laatsch and Grande Presidente Beth Laatsch and Grand Chef Passe John Helgeson and Dame Pauline Borgen of Cabane 526. The next Wreaths Across America ceremony will be Saturday, December 13, 2025.

GRAND SOUS CHEF DE TRAIN

George Heck

Hello Voyageurs! Guess what time it is? It's membership time. Have you renewed yours yet? 2025 is here, and you need your new membership card to attend any Promenades. Make it easy on your Correspondant; pay as a group to save postage and make your Voiture 100%. Also continue to reach out to invite new members to belong.

It was great to see everyone who attended the testimonial in late October for Grand Chef de Gare Ken and Presidente Beth. Even though we were only able to attend on Saturday because of other commitments, it is always fun to get together. Voiture # 830 did an excellent job hosting the event in West Salem.

It was really a fantastic time being at the 2025 Midwinter Petite Promenade in Appleton. Along with our invited guest Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Lonnie Haynes, everyone was ecstatic to see Chuck Cooney back in action. He had been down a whole year due to the terrible fall he suffered. Outagamie County Voiture Locale #1140 is to be commended for the outstanding job they did once again in hosting a Grande event.

Safe travels wherever you journey this coming year.

NURSES TRAINING

Dale Mitchell, Directeur

The Grand de Wisconsin gives out five nursing training scholarships, right now we're supporting three nurses. At the Grand in August 2024, we voted to raise the nursing scholarship to \$1,000. We have two scholarships to give out this year. If we have more than two, we can give one to Voyageur national.

If any Voyageur has extra nursing applications you can pick one out and submit it to me. please get them to me by June 15, 2025.

My address is Dale Mitchell, N 9470 Haltur Lane, Eagle, Wisconsin, 53119. Corey, you can email me at dmitchell012@centurytel.net.

If you have more than one, try sending it to the Boland Nurse's Training Directeur. I can't guarantee that they would accept it but it is worth a shot. I know that the Boland trust is used for advanced degrees and they have a lot of money.

Next year at the national, the Nurses Training Directeur wants to have a scholarship that he can hand out also. It looks like it will go through next year at National in Gettysburg.

I am also the Emblem Sales Director for the Grand. That means I sell emblems that are used on grave markers, stuff that could be added to the gravestones or to a desktop or any other type of functions. If you're interested at all, please let me know at my email address and I can send you a picture of what I have. They're \$10 apiece. Plus, maybe shipping. I don't want to eat all of the shipping costs so I'll split it with you. The money goes to Grand. I will have them at Camp American Legion this year, also at Rustic Manor in Saint Germain.

I also do the website for Grand de Wisconsin. The website address is wifortyandeight.com. It has a lot of useful information on it. If you see something that's not up to date, please let me know. I try to keep it up to date but sometimes I do make a mistake. Right now, I can't remember when!

Hope to see you around sometime this summer. Stay healthy!

GRANDE VAVS DIRECTEUR

John W. Edelbute IV



Greetings to all my fellow Voyageurs. At last year's Grande Promenade, I had the honor and privilege of helping host one of my fellow Sous Chef de Chemin Fer at the time, Voyageur Kevin Johnson along with a candidate for Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer, voyageur Ralph Turner. They both thanked us for the great time they both had being here at our Grande Promenade.

Since then, I attended the Fall Cheminot in West Salem but unfortunately, I was not able to stay for the testimonial dinner. It was a long day as I had a meeting at AL Dept. Headquarters that morning.

In December, my wife Sam and I attended the Tri County Christmas party in Mequon. Being originally from Washington County it was kind of special to me. We both enjoyed the camaraderie and fellowship and experienced a wonderful meal. I forgot how many courses there were.

Otherwise, I have been busy working as the Nationale Americanism Directeur trying to accomplish the mission with that position my first year. Hopefully, I will get appointed next year also.

At our Midwinter Petite in Appleton last month, I had once again the privilege and honor to escort our National Guest Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Lonnie Haynes and his wife Carrie, along with their dog Kodiak. One of the highlights of our time together was the Friday night Fish Fry at American Legion Post 38. We had a great time tipping back some adult beverages and singing along with the entertainment in their bar that night. I also took our National Guest to the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay where we looked at all things TRAIN and did a photo-opportunity with the Grande du WI Merci Box. All in all, they had a wonderful time here and were very appreciative of us inviting them.

CDCE

Since my last report at our Grande Promenade in August I have been busy as usual at the Milwaukee VA. I continue to volunteer for 26 plus hours working/volunteering in the DAV transportation hub, making sure all of the Milwaukee and outlying counties DAV riders get to and from their appointments.

I have been attending all my CDCE quarterly meetings as prescribed as part of my duties being our Milwaukee VA Rep. which occur every three months. Here is where I have learned all of what the other Veteran organizations are doing to help. Unfortunately, the February meeting was canceled due to a scheduling conflict. This past December, due to their generosity, the Grande du WI donated \$100 to the CDCE Christmas fund. Once again, four \$25 Pick N Save gift cards were purchased to help Veterans and their families for Christmas dinner. Thank you once again to our Grande for being supportive.

Once again, we submitted requests for funding at two of our VA facilities here in the Grande du WI that I know of for the annual KTWR contest. This has been something we have been doing for years now, and we have been very fortunate about being awarded monies. Milwaukee VA requested funds for the semiannual Baby Shower event and the Tomah VA requested funds for a new scoring system for their bowling alley. I hope we all get awarded again this year.

I hope to see many of you at the Great Lakes Promenade on June 5th, 6th and 7th in Dekalb, Illinois.

Until next time...

Ice Fishing for a Cause

On February 22, Grand Chef de Gare and Grande Cabane Presidente Ken and Beth Laatsch along with John Vissers, Jim Vissers and Doug and Mary Schaller assisted in the Ice Fishing Tournament in Phillips to raise money for the local high school sports teams and Walworth Cabane Locale #526/Grande Cabane de Wisconsin. L to R: John Vissers, Ken and Beth Laatsch and Jim Vissers.



LA GRANDE PRESIDENTE

Beth Laatsch



Hello friends! I hope you all made it through the holidays unscathed. For me, there was a lot of traveling around the state. Thankfully, the weather was cooperative. I even attended a luau in the middle of January! Wisconsin-style: indoors with pulled pork sandwiches and beer. I have the lei to prove it.

We had a good time at Midwinter in Appleton on Feb. 7-8. Our rendezvous was short; there was not a lot to report. And then the meeting was crashed by two non-members, one of whom was a loud-mouth male! I'm not sure how he got in. You can bet there were plenty of fines collected that day. After the rendezvous we had a short question-and-answer session with Judy offering a concise explanation of the procedure for filling out the various Nationale reports. She stressed that even if you do not think your Cabane can possibly win an award, you should still apply. Attach your Grande report to the Nationale report, there is nothing more to add. The reports we submit are proof of the work we do for Veterans, children, and our communities. They give us political clout at the federal level. With our membership declining, it's even more important that we use every tool available to us as we advocate for those who depend on us.

I'm looking forward to our upcoming get-togethers at St. Germain and Camp American Legion, and hoping for pleasant weather so we can spend a lot of time outdoors. There's nothing like a campfire after a busy day spent in the company of good friends.

GRANDE PRESIDENTE'S SWEEPSTAKES REPORT

Beth Laatsch

So far, so good. We are right on track and should have no problem reaching our goal of selling 200 tickets by the time we meet for Grande Rendezvous in August.

Many thanks to Cabanes 526, 830, 856, 986 and 1080 who have taken tickets on consignment. Tickets are easy to sell. \$10 for a one-in-ten chance to win \$50 is not a high-risk investment. The hardest part is asking!

This year the proceeds go to the Youth Sports program. This program provides financial assistance to individuals or teams whose participants range in age from 7 to 20 years. Just about any sport you can think of is included, including Special Olympics, and grants are available from Grande as well as Nationale.

If you have missed out so far and want to get in on this fantastic opportunity to raise funds for a very deserving program, please call me at 715-332-5288 or text 715-820-3677.

CABANE AMERICANISM

Beth Laatsch, Directeur



Well, here it is, already March! Happy Spring to you all. Warmer weather is just around the corner, and with it come plenty of ways to promote Americanism in our communities and in our schools.

In May there's Memorial Day, of course. I know it's an annual practice for many of you to decorate Veterans' graves and participate in Memorial Day ceremonies.

It's getting toward the end of the school year, so it is a perfect time to host a Flags for First Graders program. Our flag says "America" loud and clear and is the one unifying symbol of America in times of peace as well as war. It's important to educate young children about Americanism and inspire in them a sense of patriotism. Flags for First Graders is a perfect way to accomplish this goal. The complete script for performing the Flags for First Graders program can be found on the national Forty and Eight website.

We are also at the end of the year for reporting our Cabane's activity in every Forty and Eight program. It's time to add up all the hours worked, miles traveled, and donations made. If you've been keeping track throughout the year it should be no problem. If not, well, then it's time to start so you will be prepared for next year.

A reminder about annual reports: purchasing program pins is an easy way to support any of the Forty and Eight programs, and the purchase of pins counts as activity on your end-of-year reports.

God Bless America.

Compliments of Trempealeau County Voiture No. 260 Grand Voiture de Wisconsin



2025 Officers

Chef de Gare
David Hale

Correspondant
Charles Hizer

Commissaire Intendant
David Aldach

Teamwork and Having Fun Make the 40 et 8 No. 1



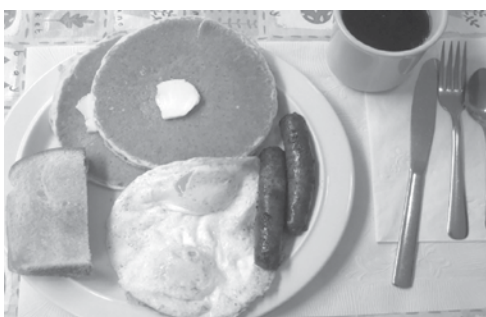
40 & 8 VOITURE 830 & CABANE 830 LA CROSSE COUNTY

PROUDLY SUPPORTING

NURSES TRAINING ~ CHILD WELFARE
YOUTH SPORTS ~ BOX CAR
CARVILLE STAR PROGRAM

BANGOR 40 ~ WEST SALEM 51 ~ LA CROSSE 52
HOLMEN 284 ~ ONALASKA 336 ~ FRENCH ISLAND 417
MINDORO 507 ~ LA CRESCENT 595

Last Sunday of Every Month
Except in December
THOMAS-HOLCOMB POST 304
PALMYRA AMERICAN LEGION



7:00 A.M. to Noon
Pancake Breakfast

115 North 3rd St., Palmyra, WI

ALL YOU CAN EAT FOR \$7.00
ONE OF EVERYTHING FOR \$4.00
Children Under Six Years FREE

Our breakfast includes Pancakes, eggs (no omelets), sausages & toast. Free with meal coffee, tea, milk, water, orange juice.

Take out is Available.

Compliments Of DODGE COUNTY VOITURE & CABANE #856



Grand Chef de Gare Passe
Wayne Faber Ron Pflzgraf

La Grande Presidente Passe

Joyce Kiel Mary Buschke
Gloria Faber Bea Griner
Judy Pflzgraf Lisa York Jackie Mitchell

Voiture #856

Chef de Gare Dennis Bruesch
Correspondant Ron Pflzgraf
Commissaire Intendant Ron Pflzgraf

Cabane #856

Presidente Micki Polster
Correspondante Judy Pflzgraf
Commissaire Intendante Judy Pflzgraf



Richland County Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Richland County held its annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast. The annual event is a fundraiser for their Nurses Training Scholarship.

ABOVE LEFT: Voyageurs out in the shed cooking the sausage patties.

ABOVE RIGHT: Flipping pancakes and washing the dishes.

AT LEFT: Voyageurs and Dames from around Wisconsin who attended the event.

BELOW: The floor workers cleaning the tables and serving the food.

ADDRESS CHANGE / CORRECTION

If you are moving, advise Headquarters of your new address as soon as possible before you move. The Grand pays 50 cents for each newspaper that cannot be delivered to the address as shown.

CONTACT US

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RICHLAND COUNTY VOITURE 1268

LA SOCIETE DES 40
HOMES et 8 CHEVAUX

AMID THE SCENIC HILLS OF
SOUTHWESTERN
WISCONSIN

RICHLAND CENTER, WISCONSIN



OUTAGAMIE COUNTY VOITURE LOCALE 1140



Jim Bassett
Chef de Gare

Jim Vissers
Correspondant

Home Of
Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Passe
Jim Vissers
Grand Chef de Gare Passe
John Marr
Jim Vissers
Jim Bassett



Compliments of

WINNEBAGO COUNTY VOITURE 751

LET'S ALL BE GREAT IN THE BADGER STATE