

THE BADGER FORTY et EIGHTER



VOLUME 60 NUMBER 1

THE HONOR SOCIETY OF AMERICAN VETERANS

MARCH/APRIL/MAY 2026

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PANCAKES & SAUSAGE

PAGE 5



NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

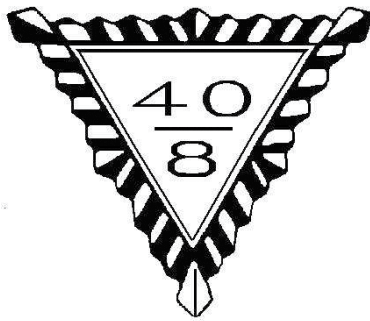
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MIDWINTER PETITE

Grand Chef de Gare's Message

Melissa Guthmiller



This year is flying by. I am ready for spring and summer! Eric and I ventured to the Bahamas on a last-minute cruise in February and I had a taste of nice weather. I want more of the sunny warm days. The cold and I do not get along well. Here at the homefront, my daughter has finished the Show Choir season and now it is time for soccer, we are hoping the weather is good for her final year.

The Mid-Winter was in February; it was great to see everyone and hear what everyone has been doing. Thank you to V-830 and the Cabane for hosting this year. If you have not been to a Grande or Mid-Winter, try to go to one. You will get some great information, meet new people and have lots of laughs. They are always a great time for fellowship. If your locale has not hosted a Grande or Mid-Winter, please consider it. It can be an easy fundraiser to help support your programs. If you want help or have questions, please reach out. I will be attending Chef de Chemin de Fer Jim Visser's homecoming banquet in March and will probably see many of you there.

If you have not registered for Great Lakes Promenade, the

due date is in May. This will be my first year attended and am looking forward to see how others' hold their events. Another great event that has been growing in size the last couple of years is 40&8 days at Camp American Legion. During the long weekend, we all get together and have fun. NO BUSINESS! We have campfires, picnics, play games and just get to know each other. It is always the weekend after Father's Day. This year it is June 25-28. If you want go, you need to make sure you make reservations as soon as you can. The motel is not very large and rooms go quick. The hotel is Rustic Manor in St. Germain, mention the 40 & 8.

I am sure the rest of the year will go by quickly, it has been an honor to be the Grande Chef de Gare this year and I appreciate all of the help and support I have received. You are all truly wonderful.

Proudly Hosted by
Monroe County Voiture 804

GRANDE VOITURE DE WISCONSIN

GRANDE PROMENADE

July 30-August 1
Tomah

Registration Form

REGISTRATION - \$10.00 Per Voyageur

Name _____

BOOSTER CLUB - \$2.00 Per Name

Name _____

Name _____

SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET

Register before July 13, 2026

BANQUET RESERVATIONS - \$36.00 Per Person

Name _____

Name _____

Promenade, Banquet and Headquarters to be held at:

Cranberry Country Lodge

319 Wittig Road
Tomah, WI 54660
608-374-2801

Mention 40 ET 8 Grande When Making Reservations:

Room Rate varies on Queen, Double Queen
or King and the day of the week
from \$94.00 - \$121.55.

Book your room prior to June 30, 2026
to ensure a room at the discounted rate,
booking after this date may still qualify
if you mention 40 et 8.

PROGRAM BOOKLET AD PRICES (Circle Ad Size)

Full Page \$80
Half Page \$50
Quarter Page \$30
Business Card \$15

Make checks for registration, banquet meal and Ad
payable to:
40 & 8 Voiture #804

Mail to:
Melissa Guthmiller
326 W Milwaukee Street
Tomah, WI 54660

Email digital Ad to Eric Diekmann at:
ericdiekmann@hotmail.com

GRANDE PROMENADE DAMES REGISTRATION FORM

JULY 30-AUGUST 31 • TOMAH

REGISTRATION - \$10.00 Per Dame

Name _____

Lunch Friday July 31 - \$20

Lunch Saturday August 1 - \$20

Register before July 20, 2026

Make checks for registration and lunch meals to: Cabane 830

Mail to:
Marian Bloom
505 Kilbourn Ave
Tomah, WI 54660

Periodical Rate
Paid
Johnson Creek, WI
and
Additional
Offices

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



GRAND VOITURE OFFICERS 2026

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Grand Chef de Gare | Melissa Guthmiller | Tomah |
| Grand Chef de Train | George Heck | Green Bay |
| Sous Grand Chef de Train | Jack Vissers | Appleton |
| Grand Conducteur | Andrew Minch | Milwaukee |
| Grand Garde De La Porte | Lori Zimmerman | Tomah |
| Grand Commis Voyageur | Mikki Bradley | Tomah |
| Grand Aumonier | Ray Kline | Onalaska |
| Grand Avocat | John Helgeson | Hudson |
| Grand Historian | Ron Pfalzgraf | Horicon |
| Grand Commissaire Intendant | Jim Vissers | Appleton |
| Sous Grand Commissaire Intendant | Ray Pasbrig | Racine |
| Sous Grand Commissaire Intendant | George Heck | Green Bay |
| Cheminot National | Dave Behling | Lake Mills |
| Alternate Cheminot National | Ken Laatsch | Phillips |
| Grand Correspondant | Tom Orval | Johnson Creek |
| Grand Sous Correspondant | John Edelblute IV | Cudahy |

GRAND CHEMINOT 2026

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|----------|
| 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 | Finger Publishing, Inc. |
| Committee Members | Steve Bradley Beth Laatsch |
| Headquarters | 312 Hillside Circle Johnson Creek, WI 53038-9700 |
| Phone | 920-699-5676 |
| Cell | 920-253-3064 |
| Email | wigrandvoiture@spectrum.net |

REPRESENTING LA SOCIETE FEMME GRANDE CABANE DE WISCONSIN

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| La Grande Presidente | Barbara Dotzauer | Fredonia |
| La Grande Correspondante | Mary Orval | Johnson Creek |

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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 | 2015 Dale Mitchell |
| 1992 Jerome Warner | 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 | 2023 John Edelblute IV |
| 2011 Jim Vissers | 2024 Dave Behling |
| 2013 John Helgeson | 2025 Ken Laatsch |
| 2014 Lloyd Granberg | 2026 Melissa Guthmiller |



GRAND CORRESPONDANT

Thomas J. Orval



On April 25 at the Oshkosh American Legion Post 70, Winnebago County Voiture Locale will be hosting a White-Collar Wreck. The location is 1332 Spruce St. The Wreck will begin at 11 a.m. with a luncheon to follow.

At the Midwinter Petite Promenade, the 2026 Communique forms were handed out or mailed to Locales who actually fill out the reports and get them sent back to Grande Headquarters. Having these reports properly filled out are very crucial being that Locales get credit for the good work they perform during the year with the various programs of La Societe. During the Committee-on-Committee meeting, we were given a full slate of nomination papers for the upcoming year.

Grand Chef de Gare from the Grande du Minnesota Steve Dircks and Bill Gordon of Locale 1281 Minnesota along with Pam Reimann joined us in La Crescent for the Midwinter. Always a pleasant surprise when neighboring Grande's visit us.

As reported in the Nurses Training article, we have increased our scholarship to \$1,500 a year. The Grande also voted on a Watercraft Sponsor to Camp American Legion this year. We donated \$2,500 which goes towards helping support necessary maintenance, repairs and replacement of watercraft which includes pontoons, paddle boats, fishing boats and outboard engines. Another donation the Grande Voiture made and that was for \$2,000 to the National Box Car Association. The NBCA raises money each year to donate it right back to the programs of La Societe that do not have a viable means of raising their own funds. The Membership and VAVS are just two of the many programs that receives funding from Box Car.

The Best Western Plus hotel we stayed at in La Crescent, MN was inclusive. It was built on the former property of their American Legion Post. A bar and restaurant were attached along with two banquet rooms. One we used for the Midwinter Promenade. Outside there are a few very modern monuments and a Huey helicopter that was flown in Vietnam.

On March 1, I Made the annual trip to Richland Center for Voiture 1268's sausage & pancake breakfast for their Nurses Training Scholarship fund. There we met Ray Pasbrig and John Edelblute along with many of the Richland County Voyageurs who were cooking or working the floor. I mention this because of the great camaraderie and friendship we all have as members of La Societe. Larry Winger's widow donated his three gold blazers to the Grande Voiture for anyone who wishes one.

There is a constitutional resolution that will be voted on at the Grande Promenade in Tomah this summer. It is calling for the reduction of Area Cheminot. Years ago, we had 12 Cheminot. One for each District. At least half of the Districts do not participate on the Grande level. About 7 years ago it was changed to 4 Area Cheminot. Due to some geographical problems, it was mentioned that we would be better off with just two Cheminot consisting of the northern and southern parts of Wisconsin. After some consideration, this idea has a lot of merit due to the Line Officers each taking different areas of the Grande Voiture to assist with membership and that the Cheminot would work with the Officers of the Locales on other factors pertaining to their Promenades and other events.

The Berlin Journal who does our printing of the Badger Forty et Eighter has been sold to Finger Publishing. All of our contacts at the publisher are the same. We do need to follow their deadline for the publication dates as closely as possible. The following dates for the rest of the year are as follows. June 4, September 3 and December 3.

On a final note, congratulations to Eric Diekmann who was just appointed as a National Sous Directeur of Child Welfare. Gold Chapeau in other words. Eric has been our Grand Directeur for a number of years so he is well aware of the inner workings of the program.

FAITH FAMILY FORTY et EIGHT

*Best wishes
From your friends at*

Voiture Locale 804 Monroe County

*Promenades Held Every Third Wednesday
of Each month @ The Tomah American Legion
1800hrs*

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

Grand Voiture Membership 2026

MARCH 5, 2025

| VOITURE/COUNTY | AREA | 2025 | 2026 |
|----------------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------|
| 236 POLK-BURNETT | 3 | 23 | 25 ** |
| 260 TREMPALEAU | 4 | 34 | 15 |
| 410 KENOSHA | 2 | 22 | 18 |
| 497 RACINE | 2 | 14 | 10 |
| 525 EAU CLAIRE | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| 526 WALWORTH | 2 | 5 | 5 * |
| 652 SAUK | 4 | 29 | 28 |
| 683 DANE | 2 | 23 | 22 |
| 750 JEFFERSON | 2 | 36 | 35 |
| 751 WINNEBAGO | 1 | 21 | 13 |
| 774 BROWN-KEWAUNEE | 1 | 36 | 38 ** |
| 804 MONROE | 3 | 39 | 30 |
| 821 CLARK | 4 | 10 | 10 * |
| 830 LA CROSSE | 3 | 71 | 67 |
| 831 PORTAGE | 4 | 23 | 24 ** |
| 840 COLUMBIA | 2 | 8 | 7 |
| 844 ROCK | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| 856 DODGE | 2 | 24 | 26 ** |
| 898 WASHINGTON | 2 | 16 | 18 ** |
| 904 PIERCE | 4 | 41 | 39 |
| 986 SHAWANO | 1 | 38 | 29 |
| 1080 SHEBOYGAN | 1 | 9 | 9 * |
| 1139 WOOD | 3 | 4 | 4 * |
| 1140 OUTAGAMIE | 1 | 28 | 28 * |
| 1156 VILAS - ONEIDA | | | |
| - LINCOLN | 1 | 11 | 8 |
| 1204 LANGLADE | 1 | 38 | 29 |
| 1268 RICHLAND | 4 | 41 | 30 |
| 1323 JUNEAU | 3 | 26 | 27 ** |
| 1372 GRANT | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| 1455 IOWA | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| 1485 ST. CROIX | 4 | 5 | 5 * |
| 1519 MILWAUKEE | 2 | 34 | 26 |
| TOTAL | | 736 | 640 |
| ** OVER THE TOP (6) | | * 100% (12) | |

TOTAL 736 640
** OVER THE TOP (6) * 100% (12)

AREA STANDINGS

| | 2025 | 2026 | Percent |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|
| AREA 1 - 3rd Place | | | Jack Vissers |
| TOTALS | 181 | 154 | 85.08% |
| AREA 2 - 2nd Place | | | Andy Minch |
| TOTALS | 188 | 167 | 88.82% |
| AREA 3 - 1st Place | | | Lori Zimmerman |
| TOTALS | 175 | 160 | 91.42% |
| AREA 4 - 4th Place | | | Mikki Bradley |
| TOTALS | 192 | 159 | 82.81% |
| GRAND TOTAL | 736 | 640 | 86.96% |
| | | -96 | |

WASHINGTON COUNTY VOITURE #898

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

GRANDE DE WISCONSIN HOME OF

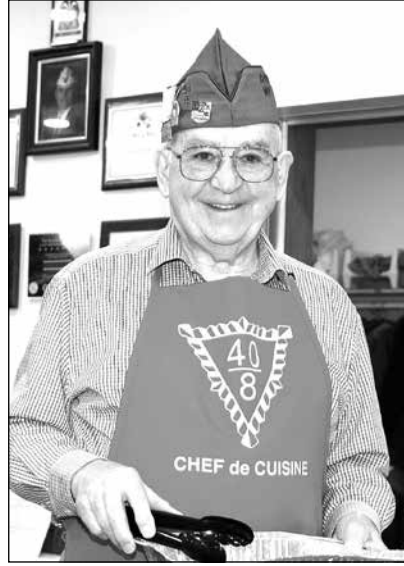
Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Passe - Dave Wegener
Grand Chef de Gare Passe - Roland Moericke
Germantown Post #1

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 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



Richland County Pancake and Sausage Breakfast



Richland County Voiture 1268 held it's semi-annual pancake and sausage breakfast on March 1 at the Richland American Legion Post with proceeds going towards their Nurses Training Scholarship Fund. ABOVE LEFT: Voyageurs and volunteers in the kitchen galley keeping up on the pancakes with the sausage patties being cooked in the Locomotive pole barn. ABOVE CENTER: Richard Cairns serving up extra sausage and pancakes for the hungry patrons. ABOVE RIGHT: Dick Dalberg taking FREEWILL DONATIONS at the door. BELOW: Voyageurs came as far away as Racine and Milwaukee for the tasty pancakes and sausage. Camaraderie at its best with the Wisconsin Voyager's.

**Grande Voiture de Wisconsin
Past Chef de Gares Club**

ORGANIZED FOR THE
CAMARADERIE OF OUR FELLOW
VOYAGEURS

For More Information Contact

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>President</u> John Edelblute | <u>Vice President</u> Jim Bassett | <u>Secretary</u> Tom Orval |
| <u>Sgts - At - Arms</u> Lori Zimmerman & Dave Behling | | |



**La Crosse County
Voiture 830
La Femme Party**

**Saturday, April 11
West Salem American Legion Club
148 South Leonard Street
West Salem, WI**

Social Hour 5pm • Dinner: 6:30pm
Menu TBD • Cost \$20

Reservations:
Call Douglas M. Schaller 608-385-6812
or Email: dougschaller@hotmail.com

Compliments of
**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
VOITURE 751**
LET'S ALL BE GREAT IN THE BADGER STATE

**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 Tom Stolarczyk
CORRESPONDANT Keith Lovell

COMMISSAIRE INTENDANT
Gerri Scalissi

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
**Trempealeau County
Voiture No. 260
Grand Voiture de Wisconsin**

Chef de Gare David Hale
Commissaire Intendant David Aldach
Correspondant Charles Hizer
Past Grand Chef's
*Lloyd Granberg 2014
John Aasen 2021*

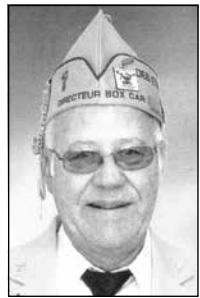
**JEFFERSON COUNTY
VOITURE LOCALE #750**

GRAND CHEF DE GARE PASSE
ART MINNING 1957
JOHN MODEL 1973
CHARLES LENZ 1985
THOMAS J. ORVAL 2008
DALE MITCHELL 2015
KEN KOZUBEK 2016
DAVE BEHLING 2024

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Dale Mitchell | Directeur Nurses Training |
| Dave Behling | Directeur Carville Star |
| Ken Kozubek | Directeur Youth Sports |
| Tom Orval | Directeur Public Relations |
| | Grand Correspondant |

VOITURE LOCALE OFFICERS
Chef de Gare Dave Behling
Correspondant Tom Orval
Commissaire Intendant Dale Mitchell

GRAND COMMISSAIRE INTENDANT
Jim Vissers



Greetings to all! The first thing I need to mention is your tax filing for 2025. If you base your finances on the calendar year, you have five months to submit an IRS Form 990 or an IRS 990 E-Postcard. If you do not, you will get a notice from the IRS to file.

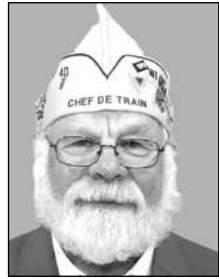
Our finances so far this fiscal year are doing very well. Our investment portfolio has shown a sizeable increase since the start of the fiscal year. I hope the remainder of the fiscal year does the same.

With our finances doing so well, I suggested at the Mid Winter Petite Promenade that we start doing a few donations. Here are the donations that were voted on and passed: \$2,000.00 donation to the Box Car Association. Their monies are expended every year, most of it going to veterans in our veteran hospitals; the Grand Nurses Training Scholarship was raised another \$500.00 to a total of five scholarships available at \$1,500.00 each; and the last donation was for a watercraft sponsorship to Camp American Legion for \$2,500.00 (Note; this is a onetime donation).

Even though I am your Commissaire Intendant, I am also this year's Chef de Chemin de Fer. It would be nice if Wisconsin came in at 100%. I know some dues have not been collected yet so we need to contact these voyageurs. There is also a need to recruit new members for our organization. All of us have this responsibility as members.

In closing, May God Bless All of You, Our Troops, and God Bless America.

GRAND CHEF DE TRAIN
George B. Heck



Approximately fifty-two Voyagers and Dames attended the Midwinter Petite in La Crescent, MN February 13 and 14, 2026. The Petite hosts were Voiture Locale 830 and Cabane 830. They did an outstanding job putting this together. The facilities were great. It used to be the local American Legion post before the hotel and convention center replaced it. Also had two great eating establishments. The Veteran memorial was still in the area with flags and a Huey helicopter on display. Well, done 830 Voiture and Dames.

As of February 26, we are still 119 members not paid for this year. If your membership card does not have 2026 on it, you are delinquent please send in your dues.

Camp has been busy this winter with Cabin 8 being torn down and rebuilt. They have the structure up and are working on the inside. Scheduled to be ready in June. The new ramp and steps by the main entrance to the lodge have been poured with only the railing to be installed. Also, the new concrete fire pit area is complete.

Remember Camp is for you! During the off season there are a few cabins that can be used during the fall and winter to enjoy the Northwoods experience. So, if you want to see the fall colors or snow, do a little ice fishing or just taking in nature call the Camp director for availability. Just meeting the requirements, being a Wisconsin resident and either being a Veteran or active-duty Veteran is all that is required. There is not any kitchen available during the off season.

GRAND SOUS CHEF DE TRAIN
Jack Vissers

Greeting from you Grand Sous Chef de Train. The only event I attended since the last issue of the Badger 40 & 8er was the Mid Winter Petite Promenade in La Crescent, MN. There was a quite bit of business transacted that weekend. I'm sure you will hear more on this in other articles.

Membership in Area 3 is at 83.42% as of the end of February. We still have a long ways to go. At one time, we were in first place in the Grand, but we slipped to second place. We are 30 members short of 100%, so we need to work on the renewals and recruitment of new members for our great organization.

Camp cleanup is coming up in May. We have some of the normal attendee that cannot make it this year for various reasons. We could sure use some new faces to help out with the Rainbow Flowage cleanup. Most of us lodge at the Rustic Manor. Please try and make it. Hopefully we will have a good turnout.

POW / MIA PROGRAM
Jim Bassett, Grand Directeur

Greeting fellow Voyageurs and Dames, hope all is well with you.

For the 2025-2026 school year the POW/MIA Program awarded 26 scholarships totaling \$24,650 to the descendants of POWs and MIAs. None of the recipients were from Wisconsin.

Scholarships are available for colleges, universities, and trade schools. Currently, former POWs or MIAs who served after December 7, 1941, their Spouse, Widow or Widower, Children, Grand Children, Great Grand Children, and Great Great Grand Children are all potential scholarship recipients.

Applications and required documentation must be received by the National Directeur POW/MIA Committee by July 15. The application form and information on the required documentation can be found on FortyandEight.org website under the POW/MIA Program Tab.

The sources of funds for the program include cash donations and donations for merchandise. The currently available merchandise include: Bolo ties (\$15), earrings (\$3), necklaces (\$3), and pins. The 2026 pins (\$4) are available. Prior year pins are also available, some at no charge.

When collecting donations for merchandise remember that the donor can be any person or organization, no need to be a veteran.

Please add the POW/MIA program to the agenda of your next Locale Promenade. Be sure all your voyageurs are aware of the scholarships available under the POW/MIA program and ask them to support this worthy program. Stay safe, keep the faith, and support the Forty and Eight.

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

RICHLAND COUNTY
VOITURE 1268
LA SOCIETE DES 40
HOMES et 8 CHEVAUX

AMID THE SCENIC HILLS OF
SOUTHWESTERN
WISCONSIN

RICHLAND CENTER, WISCONSIN

CHILD WELFARE
Eric Diekmann, Directeur



It's been quite an easy winter so far when it comes to the Child Welfare Program here in Wisconsin. As of this typing I have not been informed of any Locale providing any type of assistance for fires. Sadly, I cannot imagine there were no fires in which we could have helped but we just didn't know about them.

I recommend Locales make some type of business cards to hand out to your local police and fire departments

with some information on them. Phone numbers, email addresses and maybe a quick note on the program. I will be bringing this up at my next promenade for our locale.

We are getting to the end of the heating season, but we all know a fire can happen anytime all year long. If you hear of any fires you are encouraged to help using the Child Welfare Program. If you hear of a fire in another county that does not have a Locale, you can still help, it doesn't need to be in your county.

There is over 3 million dollars available to support this program, let's take advantage of that and help our neighbors when in need. I encourage you to spend the maximum reimbursable amounts.

Emergent need items only will be reimbursed, examples are clothes, eyeglasses, diapers, backpacks, and school supplies. Cell phones, baseball caps, computers, headphones and other truly not needed items are not allowed. If you are unsure, please call, text or send me an email.

I hope to see you all at Camp American Legion and the Grand in Tomah! I do have a few pins left and in the next few months I am going to order new ones. I don't know if any of you know this, but I used to have a job at a calendar factory, but I got fired because I took a couple of days off.

Eric Diekmann
ericdiekmann@hotmail.com
608-343-2464

Compliments Of
DODGE COUNTY
VOITURE & CABANE #856

Grand Chef de Gare Passe
Wayne Faber Ron Pfalzgraf

La Grande Presidente Passe
Joyce Kiel Mary Buschke
Gloria Faber Bea Griner
Judy Pfalzgraf Lisa York Jackie Mitchell

Voiture #856
Chef de Gare Dennis Bruesch
Correspondant Ron Pfalzgraf
Commissaire Intendant Ron Pfalzgraf

Cabane #856
Presidente Micki Polster
Correspondante Judy Pfalzgraf
Commissaire Intendante Judy Pfalzgraf

JUNEAU COUNTY
VOITURE LOCALE
1323

CHEF DE GARE **CORRESPONDANT**
Everett Burdick Jim Frisch

Wisconsin's Only
Nurses Training
Scholarship Forest



Polk-Burnett County 236 Nurses Scholarships

Polk-Burnett 40 et 8 Voiture Locale 236 recently presented \$750 Scholarship checks to four women from Polk and Burnett Counties to help them achieve their goals to become Registered Nurses.

Voiture 236 Forty et Eight recently presented end of fall semester 2025 scholarship checks to the following nurses training students from Polk and Burnett Counties. Each student received a \$750.00 scholarship check that is renewable up to four years for a potential total amount of \$3,000 to help these young women obtain their nurses training objectives.

Caitlyn Lee is a 2021 Grantsburg High School Graduate and is in her 4th year at the University of Northwestern in St. Paul studying to obtain here her Bachelor of Nursing Degree. She is scheduled to receive her Bachelor of Nursing Degree this Spring of 2026. Caitlyn's parents are Curt and Julie Lee from Grantsburg.

Abigail Schradle is a 2021 Clayton High School Graduate and has completed her 4th year of studies at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire receiving her Bachelor of Nursing degree in December of 2025 and has passed her NCLEX Exam to become a Registered Nurse. Abby started her job as a registered nurse this month at Mayo Clinic Health System – Northland, in Barron. Abigail's parents are Jeremy and Amanda

Schradle from Clayton.

Payton Doornick is a 2025 Grantsburg High School Graduate and is in her 1st year at Northwood Technical College in New Richmond studying to obtain her Registered Nursing Degree. Payton's parents are Chad and Jennifer Doornick from Grantsburg.

Lily Kasper is a 2025 Amery High School Graduate and is in her 1st year at Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota studying to obtain her Bachelor of Nursing Degree. Lily's mother is Ramona Lockwood from Amery.

40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux (Forty and Eight) was formed after WWI as the fun and honor society of the American Legion. In 1941 Forty and Eight began issuing Nurses Scholarships to deserving individuals willing to undergo formal training and make a career of that very noble profession. In 1946, an acute shortage of nurses came to the attention of Voyageurs and a Nurses Training Program was initiated at the Voiture Locale level.

In addition to annual Nurses Training Scholarships, Voiture 236 also provides funds for unmet emergent needs of children 17 years of age or younger. These situations may arise out of natural disasters, i.e., floods, tornadoes, fire, etc.

NURSES TRAINING

Dale Mitchell, Directeur

This year we received a thank you card from Kathryn Roltgen. She is a nurse's nursing student that is graduating this year. She was thanking us for our support for the past 3 years.

I was also invited to speak at a nurse's training scholarship dinner in Kenosha. Food was very good and they had some really good speakers, including the supervisor of a nurse who spent 30 years plus in nursing. It was a very enjoyable evening.

So, with Kathryn graduating that will leave us with three new applicants that the Grande Voiture can sponsor. Plus, four that we can turn into the National. I would love to be able to get seven more students. We have Lily Prien and Nyelli Antuna, who we are still sponsoring.

I had some handouts to pass out to all the Voiture Locales that attended the Midwinter Petite. There is a lot of information in it. Would like to inform you that it also has the National nurse's training Directeur's email address in it and I believe his phone number. Before you call him or email him, please call me first. I am your first contact.

At the Midwinter we voted is to raise the student's scholarship to \$1,500 a year that will equal the national scholars. That means over a 3-year period, which is average of what we sponsor a student for, it will be \$4,500 per student.

If you have someone that's going into higher nursing. For example, to get the master's degree or nurse practitioner there, you have to go through the national office and they will send you the proper application for that student. Go through your correspondent to get this done. If you need any help please contact me.

I also created a new menu on the website, nurses training application. When you download this, it will have on it, this is not a national application! What that means is that it's not the application for higher training. You can add a header page to the application if you want to. Include the address of who you're returning it to and what the Voyageur it is from.

While I'm talking about the website, must also mention that I had to have GoDaddy repair it. After I was told I had to update the website. When I did, some of the menus and dropped downs did not work. Everything is fixed now and it was paid for by the Grande. I also had them change the picture on the header. And I had a 40 e t8 emblem on the left-hand side. You click on that and it returns you to the front page.

CABANE NURSES TRAINING

Mary Schaller

I don't have to tell you that nurses are very special people. How many times a month do you use them? As we age, we find ourselves relying on nurses more frequently, whether for routine care, medical emergencies, or ongoing health concerns.

Does your Voiture participate in the Nurses Training Program? Here in La Crosse County, we are fortunate to be close to Viterbo University, home to an accredited school of nursing. Voiture and Cabane 830 offer scholarships to students there, and currently we are supporting four students.

The highlight of our Cabane year is our annual Nurses Training Banquet. This event is a tribute to the future nurses as well as the Dames of our Cabane. We call it a Femme Party and invite the graduating students to attend. Each one is presented with the Forty and Eight Nurses Training pin. This pin, available from Emblem Sales, may be worn proudly on their uniforms. It represents not only the completion of their training but also the support and encouragement provided by the Forty and Eight. I can't tell you how special the pins are to the nurses who receive them.

Annual reports are due soon, are you ready? Have you been keeping track of hours, miles, and money spent on your Nurses Training program? Did you purchase pins? Report it. Did you work at a fundraiser or donate to a scholarship? Report it. If you have questions feel free to call me at 608-786-2398.



Sheboygan Locale 1080: 100% Membership Pins



At their recent Locale Promenade, Grand Chef de Train George Heck presented Chef de Gare Mark Degener and Correspondant Joe Ternes with their 100% Membership pins as Jerry Benschawel looks on.

Milwaukee County Voiture 1519

Member of the Mighty 4th District

Chef de Gare
Andrew Minch

&

Correspondant
Linda Pfeiffer



Another Successful Flambeau Forest Inn Fishoree

Since 2013, the Grande Cabane has participated in the meat raffle held during the annual fishoree sponsored by Flambeau Forest Inn of Winter, Wisconsin. Over the years, thousands of dollars have been raised for the Cabane's annual Grande Presidente's projects. Voyageurs and Dames who attended the event on Feb. 28 took a moment out of their busy day to gather for a photo. Mary Schaller acted as the banker for the day. Standing behind her, left to right, are Marion Bloom, Doug Schaller, George Bloom, Matt McCallson, Ken Laatsch, Michelle Melcher, and Beth Laatsch.



CABANE GRANDE PRESIDENTE

Barbara Dotzauer



There are only a few more days to spring, when we can say goodbye to winter, unless you live in Wisconsin. Unless Mother Nature changes her mind again. We were lucky the weather cooperated for our Mid-winter, this had to be the best weather ever for our Mid-winter.

Speaking of Mid-winter, I hope everyone had a good time. It's always great to get together with our other "family" to enjoy some conversation, good food and adult beverages. We had a nice turn out for our meetings and had 2 new Dames joining us. It's always great to see new faces attend our sessions. With our membership at 100% plus I'm hoping to see our new Dames come and join us for our Grande functions.

Our next Grande function will be Camp 40 & 8 days June 25th-26th-27th in St. Germain. This is always a great time to sit back and enjoy each other's company and not to mention eating and drinking. Watch for all information in upcoming Badger 40 & 8ers.

We conducted quite a lot of business at Mid-winter; please make it a point to read all information from our Grande Correspondante Mary Orval. She always makes sure we are informed with updates and what is going on at a Grande level.

Year end Grande Reports time of year is fast approaching and it's never too early to start compiling your information. Please remember ALL reports have to have a description of what you actually did to get your hours, miles and donations on a separate sheet of paper. If this is not provided, we cannot accept your reports. If you haven't worked a program still submit a report with NO ACTIVITY written on the report. Just like membership I am hoping for 100% reporting from all Cabanas.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Easter.

God bless America, keep our soldiers safe.

GRAND VOITURE AMERICANISM

Ken Laatsch

Spring is right around the corner, so it's time to start thinking about your annual Americanism report. The form has seven categories: Americanism Awards, Americanism Speeches and Flag Activities, Youth Activities, Community Activities, Holidays and Memorials, Veterans, and Flags for First Graders Program. I have no doubt that every Voiture participates in at least one of these pursuits. The biggest hurdle to navigate is record-keeping. As I have stressed before, make it a habit to keep track of your activities as you do them, rather than trying to remember what you did after-the-fact.

I have a few 2026 Americanism pins left and will have them with me at Chef de Chemin de Fer Jim's Homecoming March 19-21 in Neenah.

If any Voiture Locale wants to nominate someone for the annual Americanism Award, all the information is on Voiture Nationale's website under the Americanism program tab. The nominee does not have to be a Voyageur or a Dame, but the person should be very active in supporting his or her community or Veterans. If you do have someone in mind, follow the guidelines on the Americanism website.

You should have received your Petite Communiqués from Grand Correspondant Tom Orval. Please, when filling out each report, be sure to fill in all the information at the top of the report. For example, the name of the person doing the report, the Voiture number, the Voiture name, etc. If the report is not filled out correctly, it cannot be used for award judging, or for my report to Nationale on all the good work you do for La Societe.

Thank you for your participation in the Americanism program and for everything you do in support of your fellow veterans and the communities you live in.

I hope to see a lot of you up at Camp American Legion for the spring clean-up, and then again at Camp Days at the end of June.

OUTAGAMIE COUNTY VOITURE LOCALE 1140



Jim Bassett
Chef de Gare

Jim Vissers
Correspondant

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

GRANDE PRESIDENTE'S SWEEPSTAKES REPORT

Beth Laatsch

Another year brings another exciting installment of the Grande Presidente's Sweepstakes. Over the years the sweepstakes has consistently proven to be an outstanding fundraiser for the Grande Cabane. Thanks to the dedication and participation of our supporters, we are well on our way to achieving another year of success.

The format is straightforward. Each ticket is sold individually at a set price, eliminating the need for purchasing books of tickets. For just ten dollars, you can secure a single ticket, which automatically provides you with 20 chances to win a fifty-dollar prize. If you choose to

buy two tickets, you will double your prospects, giving you 40 chances to win. This simple structure is designed to encourage greater participation and maximize your chances of success.

The proceeds from the sweepstakes are dedicated to supporting the Grande Presidente's special program. For this year, Grande Presidente Barbara Dotzauer has chosen to direct all funds raised toward the POW/MIA scholarship program.

Heartfelt thanks to the Cabanes whose efforts in selling sweepstakes tickets have been instrumental to our success this year: 856, 526, 1372, 830, and 1080. In addition, I appreciate those individuals who have taken on the responsibility of selling tickets outside of their Cabanes.

If you have not yet taken part in the Grande Presidente's Sweepstakes, there is still time to join in and support a truly worthwhile cause. Participating in the sweepstakes is a wonderful way to help raise funds for the POW/MIA scholarship program, which benefits from every ticket sold.

Tickets will be available until Grande Rendezvous in Tomah, unless they are all sold before then. To secure your chance to win and contribute to the program, please reach out to me. You can call 715-332-5288 or, if you prefer, send a text to 715-820-3677. I am happy to provide all the details you need.

LANGLADE COUNTY VOITURE 1204

Don Emley
Chef de Gare

Dan Kamps
Correspondant

HOME OF



Don Emley
Chef de Chemin de Fer 2016

Dale Oatman
Sous National Directeur
Special Awards Passe
State American Legion
Commander 2016

Jack Eaton
National Lampiste & Drapeau Passe

Steve Bradley
National Directeur Ritual

Richard Schuh
Grand Chef de Gare 2005

Marie Schuh
Grande Cabane Presidente 2005

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

WHITE COLLAR WRECK

April 25 • 11 am
Oshkosh
American Legion
Post 70
1332 Spruce St.

Luncheon will follow
conclusion on Initiation.



Compliments
Brown Kewaunee
Voiture Locale #774



LA GRANDE CABANE CORRESPONDANTE
Mary Orval



The Mid-Winter Rendezvous was held February 14, 2026 in La Crescent, Minnesota. The weather was perfect just like our wonderful 40 & 8 friends.

Congratulations to all of Grande de Wisconsin for 100% in membership. Wonderful and Awesome Job Dames!

This states as of March 2026:

| Cabane Number | 2025 | Renewal | New | Percentage Goal |
|---------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------------|
| 526 | 8 | 8 | | 100.00% |
| 683 | 2 | 2 | | 100.00% |
| 830 | 22 | 24 | 2 | 109.09% |
| 856 | 22 | 22 | 1 | 100.00% |
| 986 | 16 | 16 | | 100.00% |
| 1080 | 24 | 25 | 1 | 104.17% |
| 1372 | 9 | 9 | | 100.00% |
| Totals | 103 | 106 | 4 | 102.91% |

REMINDERS

Report Deadline: June 12, 2026 for mailing back reports to Grande Correspondante. Or if you are attending Camp American Legion Days, please bring them and give them to me.

Award Deadline: July 17, 2026 for emailing or mailing results of Cabane awards winners for Grande. Get me the information soon for printing out the award certificates.

Awards for Nationale: Please look at the Nationale website for the list of Nationale awards that your Locale Cabane could be eligible to receive an awards.

Reminder: Bring all your raffle tickets, stubs and money for Grande President's Project for Beth Laatsch, she must have them by Grande. If you have taken raffle tickets and cannot attend, please mail your ticket stubs and money to Beth Laatsch, W11885 County Road, Phillips, WI 54555 or call Beth Laatsch at 715-332-5288.

Grande 2026-Tomah, Wisconsin, July 31-August 1, 2026, Cranberry County Lodge 608-374-2801. See Badger 40 & 8er for detailed information.

Raffles for Grande – Cabane 830, Cabane 986 and Passé President's Club

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 40 ET 8 Days at Camp American Legion – June 26-27, 2026.
- Nationale Rendezvous – Gettysburg, PA – September 22-26, 2026.

Spring is almost here. Let us wish for warmer, safer, healthier and better tomorrows. I would like to say with a heartfelt thank you to everyone for their help, hard work and support for the Grande de Wisconsin.



**Grande Cabane de Wisconsin
President's Passe Club**

Organized to assist the Grande Cabane, and for fun and relaxation

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| Doreen Wages | Judy Pfalzgraf |
| Gloria Faber | Harriet Robson |
| Jeanette Riekkoff | Mary Schaller |
| Nina Means | Beth Laatsch |
| Barbara Dotzauer | Lisa York |
| Arlene Katcher | Jennifer Larson |
| Mary Orval, Honorary President's Passe | |

CABANE AMERICANISM
Beth Laatsch

The Americanism program covers a broad range of activities, from promoting flag etiquette and respect for the American flag, to participation in various forms of community service. I don't think there is a single Dame who is not involved in some aspects of Americanism.

The coming months feature many patriotic observances: VE Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day.

What an Independence Day it will be in 2026! July 4 commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence 250 years ago. It's our chance to reflect on the history of our country and how we got to where we are today. Our chance to inspire patriotism and citizenship, to encourage respect for our flag, and to honor the great men and women who fought for the freedoms we enjoy.

Don't let this once-in-a-lifetime chance pass you by. Be sure your Cabane celebrates this historic occasion in a meaningful way. You could do something active like marching in a parade to show your patriotic spirit. If that doesn't suit you, a simple celebration with birthday cake and ice cream can be a wonderful way to honor America's 250th birthday. The important thing is to celebrate together and recognize the significance of this milestone in our nation's history. Happy 250th birthday, America!

RITUAL

Steve Bradley, Grand & National Directeur

This is the month to make plans for the 106th 40 et 8 Birthday Celebration. Our Birthday is March 15; your Celebration can be whenever it works for your Voiture.

This is a Special 40 et 8 event. Officers participating are the Chef de Gare, Conducteur, Chef de Train, Chef de Cuisine and Aumonier. This can be a stand-alone program or if part of a Promenade use the short form.

As a stand-alone program, make this a special event! Invite other veterans and use this event as a recruiting tool. Make sure you have enough Birthday Cake!

If you have invited any dignitaries, you may want to introduce them at the very beginning of the program and list them in your program leaflet.

Remember this Birthday Celebration can include a dinner with guests or a gathering of Voyageurs as part of a Promenade. It is up to you. Whatever you do, read over the Ritual and have copies for all participants. If you need a copy of the New and Revised Birthday Celebration, purchase a New Blue Ritual and Manual of Ceremonies.

Be sure to take pictures of your event and send them with proper captions to the Forty et Eighter magazine and Voiture Nationale.

A well-prepared program will bring you success!

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 | Dave Kanouse |
| Correspondant | Arien Herminath |
| Commissaire Intendant | Phil Nelson |
| Cabane Presidente | Sandra Beggs |
| Cabane Correspondante | Kathy Gramza |

AID TO THE VOITURE
Judy Pfalzgraf

Many times, I have been approached with this question: "What do we record and report for Aid to Voiture?"

The answer is easier than you would think. First of all, as you do for any report, fill in the blanks on your annual Aid to the Voiture Report. That's the easy part.

The confusion comes when trying to explain your "other" Aid to the Voiture activities. Simply put, anything you do for the good of the Voiture as a whole or an individual Voyageur is reportable. Remember: Voiture refers to the group, the Voyager is an individual who belongs to the group.

Here are a few examples: helping at Voiture fundraisers, cooking meals for Voiture Promenades, typing for the Voiture or an individual Voyageur. Also, taking a Voyageur shopping or to medical appointments, or driving a Voyageur to a promenade are all activities that can be reported.

If the Voiture helps a family that has suffered a fire or other disaster, your Cabane can assist by helping with shopping for essential items, as well as donating goods directly to the family in need.

Whenever you offer support to your Voiture in situations like these, whether it involves spending hours assisting, traveling miles to deliver help, or donating money and materials, all of these efforts count as hours, miles, and monetary contributions for your Aid to the Voiture reporting.

At the end of your report, combine ALL Forty and Eight program totals and add them to your Aid to Voiture Report: Americanism, Box Car, Camp American Legion, Carville Star, Child Welfare, Nurses Training, POW/MIA, and Youth Sports. Include those totals at the end of your Aid to Voiture Report for a grand total of all the valuable assistance you give your Voiture.

Remember if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

CABANE CHILD WELFARE
Judy Pfalzgraf

Now is the time of year to start thinking about spring and summer projects that benefit youth. Early preparation ensures that your efforts are well-organized and effective, thus making a positive difference in the lives of children in the community.

While the children are still in school, check with your schools to see if there are any children in need that your Cabane can help. You could provide the kids with summer clothing and shoes. Or, with children in mind, donate food to food pantries. Easter is coming up in April. Find a family you can adopt and provide them with a nice warm Easter meal. If your city has Easter egg hunts, donate items for the baskets and solicit your sister Dames to help fill the baskets.

After school is out for the summer the children will need things like coloring books or puzzles to keep them busy during their vacation. Items of this nature can be donated either to local libraries or to the schools to give to the children at the end of the school year.

It's also the time of the year to help a child to go to a summer camp.

Every month I get letters from the Voiture Nationale Child Welfare Sous Directeur's. These communications are filled with ideas like I mentioned that Voyageurs and Dames all over the country are doing for children.

Please just remember that anything you do for the good of our youth should be reported on your Child Welfare report. Keep track of your hours, miles and money spent and include it all on your year-end reports, due to Mary Orval by June 12. If you have any questions about a project you are doing or want to do, just contact me.

Thank you for all you do for the Child Welfare program. Your dedication is truly appreciated. Remember, today's children are the leaders and caretakers of tomorrow. Investing in their well-being today will help shape a brighter future for us all.

Lest We Forget

MARCH—APRIL—MAY

VOYAGEURS

- | | |
|------------------|--------|
| DANIEL RODRIGUEZ | V-410 |
| GERALD WILLIAMS | V-774 |
| ALLEN JOHNSON | V-830 |
| DELBERT YAROCH | V-856 |
| JIM RIESENBERG | V-1080 |
| BERNARD A BLANK | V-1268 |
| GAIL B. SURREN | V-1268 |

LA FEMME

- | | |
|--------------|-------|
| JUDY REILLEY | C-856 |
|--------------|-------|

MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE

40 ET 8 DAYS AT CAMP

Tom Orval
Chairman, 40 et 8 Days at Camp



The 57th edition of this event will be taking place on June 25th – 27th. From what I've been told, we can expect one of the largest turnouts in recent memory. Many of us meet Thursday afternoon behind the Rustic Manor for good conversation. That and someone always has a raffle ticket to sell! We will be calling the Saynor Pub ahead of time and reserving the entire back room for 5:00 P. M. on the 25th. They have without a doubt the best pizza this person has ever tried. Of course, there are other delicious entries on the menu. Weather permitting, we will be back to the Rustic Manor for a bon fire and discussing world events (gossip).

Friday morning after breakfast, many will be going out for shopping to Eagle River, Minocqua, one of the shops in St. Germain or even a quick trip to the Three Lakes Winery. George Heck will be giving tours of the Camp facilities for anyone wishing to see all of the improvements to the cabins and storage area. I'm sure the Camp store will be open for those wanting to purchase a shirt, hoodie, etc. Incidentally, last year the Grand Voiture funded \$2,000 towards the purchase of new merchandise for the store.

That afternoon the annual picnic will be behind the motel with the beanbag tournament commencing at 1:30 P. M. This will again be a luck of the draw for partners. That evening there will be another bon fire.

We will be having our special meeting that afternoon just before the tournament (takes about 5 minutes) where those wishing to serve on a National Committee let the Committee on Committee know so your name can be submitted.

Saturday morning if there is enough interest, Dale Mitchell will be hosting a fishing tournament either on Lake Tomahawk or Rainbow Flowage. The Timbers Bar & Grill will be opening up special for us at 10:30 A. M. for Bloody Mary's or other adult beverages. That afternoon we'll be venturing out to the Rainbow Flowage for the annual picnic. Beth Laatsch will again be sponsoring bingo games in the pavilion while others fish off the pier, enjoy conversation with fellow members of our Forty et Eight family, etc.

Depending on his schedule, Camp Director Jim Klement will be out to give everyone an update on the continuing improvements made at Camp and to receive donations. A suggestion is to purchase Menards gift cards this year.

We will be making a toast at the Flowage in memory of Grand Chef de Gare 1998 "Gary Dotzauer" who for many years attended 40 et 8 Camp Days.

Get your reservations in at the Rustic Manor in St. Germain ASAP. Call 715-479-9776 and ask for either Bob or Jackie and let them know you are part of the Forty et Eight.

A special thanks to George & Cathy Heck, Dale Mitchell, Jim Vissers, Jack Vissers, John Helgeson, Ken & Beth Laatsch, Barb Dotzauer and Mary Orval for assisting with making this one of the most enjoyable weekends with members of our Forty et Eight family.

CABANE CAMP AMERICAN LEGION

Cathleen Heck, Cabane Directeur

Camp American Legion is a free retreat facility in Oneida County. It serves Wisconsin veterans, active-duty military, reservists and their families by offering rest and recuperation and a chance to connect with fellow veterans.

A simple internet search for Camp American Legion will lead you to the information you need. Check it out. You will find applications to apply to attend as a camper or as a volunteer. The 2026 season schedule has already been posted, because believe it or not, Camp opened in January, offering opportunities to enjoy the beautiful Wisconsin Northwoods during the winter months. Coming up in March is maple syrup season, always a favorite. If I counted right, this year there will be 11 weeks dedicated to veterans and their families.

And if you look at the schedule you will notice that May 14-16 is Forty and Eight work weekend. Yes, the Grand Voiture AND CABANE spend a couple of days doing spring cleanup, mostly at Rainbow Flowage where we hold our activities during Forty and Eight Days at Camp, which this year will be June 26-27. If you've never joined us for camp weekend, you don't know what you're missing!

The camp is a constant hub of activity with ongoing improvements. Recent renovations include the rebuilding of cabins, with work progressing steadily on several units. In addition, a 15-person van was donated to camp, providing an option for campers who prefer not to drive to an event.

There's a lot happening at Camp! Take a drive and discover everything Camp has to offer.

Scenes from the Midwinter Petite



Voyageurs and Dames enjoying the Saturday evening banquet at the Mid Winter Petite.



ABOVE LEFT: Minnesota Voyageurs Bill Gordon and Grand Chef de Gare Steve Dircks with Grand Chef de Gare Melissa Guthmiller. ABOVE RIGHT: La Crosse Chef de Gare Ron Corn presents Doug Schaller with a special gift for all of his work in setting up the Midwinter Petite Promenade & Rendezvous. AT RIGHT: Huey helicopter on display just outside the Best Western Plus Hotel. BELOW LEFT: Minnesota Chef Steve Dircks presents John Edelblute with a couple cases of Minnesota's finest craft beer for saving him by purchasing Paul Bunyun's gavel this last year in Gettysburg. BELOW RIGHT: Grand Chef Melissa presents Chef de Chemin de fer Jim Vissers with his own embroidered sport shirt.



GRANDE VAVS DIRECTEUR

John W. Edelbute IV, Zablocki Rep



Greetings to all my Forty and Eight family,

I hope this all finds you well, happy and safe. Like me I know we are all hoping for a beautiful Spring this year which is not to far away. I hope also that you have been as busy I have with your Forty and Eight and other Veteran Organization activities.

Since my last article I attended the Tri County Christmas party on December 6th at the Mayville Golf Course. I had a good time visiting with everyone and it was a nice day all the way around. Sam and I had a very nice Holiday Season this year, I would one of the nicest in many a year. The

beginning of February I attended the Twister Wreck in Wichita. If you have never attended, I highly suggest putting it on your bucket list. The Voyageurs of the Grand du Kansas were most kind and very gracious hosts. I was given a tour of Voiture "The Mighty 58's" property of 80 acres which included a lake, a gun and trap shooting range, a Boy Scout camping area and they have their own Chateau. Needless to say, I was impressed.

As far everything else I have attended all of my VAVS quarterly meetings as requires and have been putting in my usual 26 plus hours a week at the Zablocki VA in Milwaukee. This year I will once again be sending in requests from the KTRW contest for the Middleton and Milwaukee VA's. My term as the Americanism Directeur Nationale is going great also.

Until Next time.