

# GRANDE VOITURE DE WISCONSIN

# CORRESPONDANTS CORNER



April 26, 2026



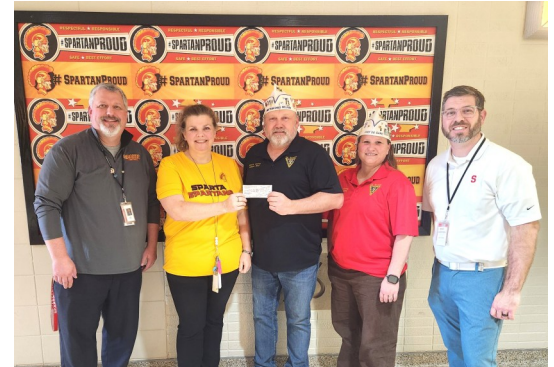
## SHEBOYGAN VOITURE 1080



Correspondant Joe Ternes presents a Scholarship check to Leigha Rauwerdink who will be graduating from Lakeland College in December with a degree as a Registered Nurse.



John W Edelblute IV and John Rose from the CDCE Department at the Zablocki VA receives the Annual Christmas donation from the Grande Voiture de Wisconsin for their Christmas fund which is \$100.00. Donations were also made to the Madison and Tomah VA Centers.



On April 16th Grand Chef De Gare Melissa Guthmiller and Director Child Welfare Eric Diekmann present a \$400 check from Monroe County Voiture 804 Youth Sports Program to the staff at Sparta High School. Sparta High School has just started an ASL (Adapted Sports League) The money will go towards their indoor hockey and soccer programs.



Five new Voyageurs from Voitures 751 of Winnebago and 774 Brown Kewaunee joined the ranks of La Societe on April 25th. The Initiation ceremony was held at the Oshkosh American Legion Post 70. Chef de Chemin de fer Jim Vissers was the Wrecking Chef for the event with assistance from George Heck, Dave Behling, Jim Bassett and Tom Orval.



**Grande Voiture de Wisconsin  
Headquarters Address  
312 Hillside Circle  
Johnson Creek, WI. 53038**



Chef de Chemin de Fer Jim proudly displays the bronze eagle he relieved as a gift from many of the past Grand Chef de Gares of Wisconsin.



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Dale Slowik was voted the 2026 Jefferson County Voiture Locale 750 Voyageur of the Year. He was presented this award at the Real McCoy's during the April Promenade.

Presenting the award are Grand Conducteur Andy Minch who was a guest, Slowik and Chef de Gare/National Cheminot Dave Behling.



Big Chef Jim Vissers and National President Cheryl Boswell along with the President of the Southland Dixie at the recently concluded Southland Promenade in Jacksonville, Florida.

# GRAND CORRESPONDANT

## THOMAS J. ORVAL

As of April 26th, Grande Voiture Headquarters has received "0" 2026 communique reports from the Voiture Locales. As I've stated over the years that this is how you receive credit for the good work you and your Locale performs over the year. The Program Directeur will send the results to the National Directeur for judging and tabulation on the hours, money and travel for the year.

Do hope that everyone is gearing up to assist with the Memorial Day Observance this coming May 25th in your community. If all goes accordingly to plan, many of us will be in Watertown that afternoon for the dedication of the Vietnam Wall. It's a 80% replica of the one in Washington D. C. One of our Voyageurs (Gary Stueber) was very instrumental in this undertaking.

For the first time in many years, the Grande de Wisconsin has not had to use the Charles W. Ardery Memorial Child Welfare fund to assist children who were victims of a home fire or some other natural disaster.

Our Grand Directeur of Nurses Training informed me that there are three open scholarships this coming year. A scholarship is \$1,500.00 per year. You must have completed your freshman of a four year program working towards a Registered Nurse degree. He also has openings for Voiture National Nurses Training applications.



June 25th, 26th & 27th is the annual Forty et Eight Days at Camp American Legion. We are expecting a very large turnout this year. For those coming on Thursday afternoon, I've sent a letter to the Saynor Pub letting them know we have a large group that plan on being there about 5:30 PM that afternoon. Do know the Rustic Manor is sold out already but there are other hotels in the area. The Bean Bag Tournament starts at 1:30 PM Friday afternoon. Shopping, bon fires, lots of food and most of all; fantastic camaraderie with your 40 et 8 family members.

We are but 37 members short of 100% for 2026. There still is one Locale who have not sent in any memberships yet this year. Grand Chef de Train George Heck has been contacting them to see if they are in need of assistance. Grand Garde de La Ports Lori Zimmermann is standing at 101.71%. Congratulations to Lori on this achievement.

In the next few weeks I'll be sending out a membership roster of each Locale in Wisconsin. I'm asking for each of you to go over the list and get back to me on any changes that need to be made as in additions, deletions or address corrections. This is for the Badger Forty et Eighter publication. The deadline for the next publication is June 4th.

There are two resolutions that need to be voted on at the Grande Promenade this summer. One is for adding a Grand Medicin to the list of Officers and the other is for only having two Regional Cheminot. We really don't need four. Some years ago it was twelve. Both of these resolutions are Constitutional changes and can only be voted on at the Grande Promenade.

We have not yet received any bids for hosting the 2027 Midwinter Petite Promenade. Do know that Sheboygan County is looing into hosting one in Manitowoc and Chef de Gare Dave Kanouse of Shawano tried to have his Locale host an event but the membership was not interested. If done right you can clear \$2,000 to \$3,000 on hosting one of these events. You have zero up front money needed and the only thing you are required to pay for is the Registration of the National guest which is \$10.00.