



Greetings Voyageurs

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Safe, and Profitable New Year to all Voitures and Voyageurs of Great Grand du Minnesota. Well, it looks like the snow finally got here and this time it will probably stay for a while. Hope all your hunts were successful.

It is with a sad note to inform you of the passing of Past Grand Chef de Gare, Fred Schmidt from Hutchinson. He was called to the Supreme Voiture on Sunday, December 1. He will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Mid-Winter in Osseo is fast approaching. If you haven't got your rooms reserved yet, I would encourage you to do so. All Grand Cheminots and appointed Directeurs should attend, along with a minimum of Chefs de Gare and Correspondants Locale. Mid-Winter has been shortened to Saturday and Sunday with no meetings on Friday so it should be easier for you to attend. The La Quinta rooms are very reasonable. See flyer elsewhere in this newsletter for information. This is probably the only time you can meet Chef de Chemin de Fer Pat Beemer who hails from Florida.

Since the last newsletter I have had the privilege of attending the Helicopter Dedication at the McLeod County Veterans Park in Hutchinson and had a chance to chat with General Andriotte retired who was the guest speaker at the function. The timing was perfect when the General started his speech there was a helicopter flyover. Very fitting for the occasion. Voiture 44 Forest Lake welcomed 7 new members at their wreck. I was pleased to give the new pgs's passé the information part of the wreck. It was well attended being it was on short notice. On Sunday, December 1 I attended the annual Nursing Banquet at V414 and had the honor of presenting \$5000 in scholarships to 10 nursing students. There are times when your functions overlap another Voiture's functions so I guess the first invite gets it. Sorry I can't be 2 places at the same time.

Membership renewals are a never-ending battle. Keep asking, calling or whatever it takes to get those renewals. We cannot afford to lose a single Voyageur if the 40&8 is to survive. Keep your Voitures active. For you smaller Voitures remember there are funds available at National through the Boland Fund to help you give a scholarship to a nursing student. Should you not have the funds in your Voiture this is a great alternative. You can print an application from <http://www.fortyandeight.org> under "programs".

Hope to have a lot of pgs at the Grand Wreck which will coincide with the Minn-Dakota to be held in Little Falls the first weekend in May. If you don't find a wreck before then bring them to Little Falls.

"Honest criticism is hard to take, particularly from a relative, a friend, an acquaintance or a stranger." ~ Franklin P. Jones

Jerry Block

Grand Chef de Gare



Maj. Gen. Eugene Andreotti Ret. & Chef Jerry at Memorial Dedication in Hutchinson



Chopper dedication Hutchinson



Calendar Of Events

Voiture Locales– Events/Functions to be published in the Grand Voiture Newsletter must be submitted to the Editor as soon as you know the Dates. They will run in this Column as long as possible before the event/function. Get them in and spread the word so many others will know about the event.

- 1/31/2/1/2/2/14 MID-WINTER PROMENADE — OSSEO, MN. (More Information as received)
- 4/27/14— Grand Chef's Testimonial (More Information as Received)
- 5/2/3/4/14— Minn-Dakota & Grand Chef's Wreck— Little Falls, MN. (Hotel Information is posted on the National Web site)

LET US KNOW OF YOUR EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS AND GET THEM LISTED HERE !



MINNEAPOLIS VETERANS HOSPITAL VISITATION

The below listed order of visitation will be a Permanent article in the monthly newsletter.

Chef's de Gare and Correspondants Locale are asked to review it each month and get your Voyageurs Militaire committed to attending the monthly assigned visitation. A minimum of six Voyageurs are requested. La Femmes are welcome and encouraged to attend the Visitation.

2014

- 29 Jan. Voiture 390 Anoka County
- 26 Feb. Voiture 1281 Minnetonka
- 26 Mar. Voiture 44 Forest Lake
- 30 Apr. Voiture 39 Ramsey County
- 28 May Voiture 791 Bayport/Stillwater
- 25 June Voiture 33 St Paul Park
- 30 July Voiture 39 St Paul
- 29 Oct. Voiture 33 St. Paul Park No Report
- 27 Nov. Voiture 39 St. Paul No Report

Voyageurs out for the Visitation are to meet Richard Hammond, VAVS Representatives at the Center in the main Atrium at 6:50 P. M. The Visitation can be completed in less than one hour. LaFemmes are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please send all deceased members to Voiture Nationale and also to the Grand Correspondant. This is the only way that we have of keeping a up to date list of those that have passed away. Thank You. Mel. Stopelman Grand Correspondant

ENDORSEMENTS 2014—2015

Endorsements for Grande Voiture Office must be submitted in writing and signed by The Chef de Gare & Correspondent Locale. Please submit a **Separate Letter for each Office Endorsed**. Letters which do not meet with mandate will be returned.

ENDORSEMENTS 2014—2015

V-415 ST. CLOUD	STEVE DIRCKS	GR. CHEF DE GARE
V-415 ST. CLOUD	DAVE HECTOR	GR. GARD DE LA PORT
V-415 ST. CLOUD	PAT WOLNEY	6TH GRAND CHEMINOT
V-414 HUTCHINSON	JERRY BLOCK	CHEMINOT NATIONAL



TAPS VOITURE EVERLASTING NOVEMBER 2013

Jerome Bohn	Cass Lake	V-582
Michael Flor Jr.	Forest Lake	V-1281
Richard McDonald	Grand Rapids	V-806
Gary Miller	Willmar	V-1413
Lawrance Schwalbe	New Brighton	V-1281
John Stoechmann	Hamburg	V-1281
Donald Warga	Albany	V-415
Richard Witchen	Sauk Rapids	V-415

Space permitting TAPS will be published in the newsletter as taken from the Web Page of Voiture Nationale on a monthly basis. Names of deceased Voyageurs submitted to Voiture Nationale will be published. Correspondant Locales should use the form from the Voiture Nationale Web site to send them to Voiture Nationale



VOYAGEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Donald J. Theis Voyageur of the Year Award applications for 2014 are again available to any Voiture Locale wishing them contact the Grand Correspondant and they will be sent out. This is the time to start to look for that Distinguished person in your Locale, the dead line for applications is drawing near. Completed Applications must be received prior to June 30th.

NOTICE

THE BELOW LISTED VOITURE LOCALES HAVE NOT TURNED IN THERE 2014 "OFFICERS LIST , Send them to the GRAND CORRESPONDANT "SOON.

Voiture Locale —828—772

734

838 -1413

These lists are needed in order for your locale Officers to be registered with National and for the Grand Directory.

ATTENTION

All Grand Officers and Committeemen; If "YOU HAVE A EMAIL ADDRESS" please send it to the GRAND CORRESPONDANT, as soon as Possible. It must be in a "LEGABLE" form.

These are needed to cut down on the mailing and printing cost. Your help would be deeply appreciated. Mel Stoppelman Grand Correspondant Grand du Minnesota.

Voiture Locale hosted a wreck on November 23, 2013, in which 7 New Voyageurs were wrecked into the ranks of the 40 et 8, bid them a hearty welcome.



Voiture Locale 414 hosts nurses training dinner on Dec. 1, 2013 pictured are some of the recipients of scholar ships along with Grand Chef Jerry, 414 Chef Mark Schumann and Grand NT Directeur Sam Mattson

ENDORSEMENTS 2014-2015

The time has come to start to Submit those Endorsements for the 2014-2015 for those Grand Voiture Offices.

They must be Submitted in writing and signed by the Chef de Gare and Correspondant Locale.

Each office Endorsed must be on a separate letter. ENDORSEMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2014. Those not meeting the mandate will be returned. Lets start to get them in. Mail endorsements to: Mel. Stoppelman Grand Correspondant 2609 Goettens Way # 205, St. Cloud, MN. 56301

GRAND du MINNESOTA JACKETS

I have received inquiries about ordering more of the Grand du Minnesota Jackets. The cost would be about \$75.00 each in sizes up to XL and \$3.50 for sizes above that. The number required to place an order would be 12. If interested let the Grand Correspondant know and order forms will be sent.

Grand Directeurs & Chairmen;

The Grand Directours and Chairman are being asked to contribute articles for the Grand News letter letting the members know what it taking place within the 40/8 and with the Program which you are a Directeur of. Lets let the Voitures now what is going on with Programs of the 40/8.

NOTICE:

We are in the need for Bids for the up and coming 2015 Grand Promenade also the Mid-Winter Promenade, Contact Dick Skillestad or one of the Convention Corporation Members to get a Bid form.



HO-Ho-HO, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year everyone.

LA SOCIETE DES QUARANTE HOMMES ET HUIT CHEVAUX

ANNUAL MID WINTER CONFERENCES

GRANDE VOITURE DU MINNESOTA

JANUARY 31- FEBRUARY 1-2, 2014

JERRY BLOCK—GRAND CHEF DE GARE
ARLETTE HARTUNG - LA GRANDE PRESIDENTE
PAT BEAMER - CHEF DE CHEMIN DE FER



HOSTED BY:

VOITURE LOCALE 1281

JOHN TORMA— CHEF DE GARE LOCALE
AMERICAN LEGION POST 172 CLUBROOMS
OSSEO, MINNESOTA 55369

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL
LA QUINTA INN & SUITES
7011 NORTHLAND CIR. N.
MINNEAPOLIS, MN. 55428
PHONE # 1-763-971-8000

FLAT RATE ROOMS - \$59.00 Plus Tax

DEAD LINE FOR RESERVATIONS: JANUARY 10, 2014

Rooms are blocked under 40/8 Mid-Winter

ALL MEETINGS OF THE GRANDE VOITURE AND GRANDE CABANE
WILL BE HELD AT "AMEIRCAN LEGION POST CLUB ROOMS"

Name: _____ Voiture Locale _____

Address: _____ Phone # _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Delegate: _____ Alt: _____ Banquet: _____ # Persons: _____

Registration: \$15.00 per person ——— Banquet: \$12.00 per person

Send Checks Payable to: Voiture Locale 1281—Send to: —John Torma—260 4th Ave. S. E.—Osseo, MN. 55369

STEAK FRY AT POST - FRIDAY; JANUARY 31,2014—5:30—8:30 PM—MUSIC IN BAR—FRIDAY NIGHT
SHUTTLE SERVICE — FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT.



**GRAND VOITURE DU MINNESOTA
MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2013**

VOITURE	#	2013	2014	% of Quota	Short	
ST. PAUL PARK	33	24	18	75.00%	-6	
ST. PAUL	39	45	38	84.44%	-7	
FOREST LAKE	44	59	34	57.63%	-25	
MINNEAPOLIS	45	46	30	65.22%	-16	
CHIPPEWA COUNTY	54	8	3	37.50%	-5	
MADISON	62	26	26	100.00%	0	
MANKATO	281	70	43	61.43%	-27	
ROCHESTER	327	101	50	49.50%	-51	
ANOKA	390	38	12	31.58%	-26	
HUTCHINSON	414	132	86	65.15%	-46	
ST. CLOUD	415	77	40	51.95%	-37	
WINONA	580	22	0	0.00%	-22	
BEMIDJI	582	32	15	46.88%	-17	
VIRGINIA	634	41	43	104.88%	2	
PARK RAPIDS	712	23	11	47.83%	-12	
CASS COUNTY	714	14	14	100.00%	0	
EAST GRAND FORKS	734	32	16	50.00%	-16	
THIEF RIVER FALLS	737	28	21	75.00%	-7	
PEQUOT LAKES	754	27	15	55.56%	-12	
CROOKSTON	772	19	17	89.47%	-2	
BRAINERD	778	27	17	62.96%	-10	
BAYPORT/STILLWATER	791	59	59	100.00%	0	
GRAND RAPIDS	806	45	30	66.67%	-15	
RAMSEY COUNTY	838	19	1	5.26%	-18	
ALBERT LEA	1210	10	1	10.00%	-9	
MINNETONKA	1281	96	58	60.42%	-38	
FAIRBAULT	1324	28	15	53.57%	-13	
LITTLE FALLS	1329	52	38	73.08%	-14	
WILLMAR	1413	33	0	0.00%	-33	
ROSEAU	1436	36	29	80.56%	-7	
DAKOTA COUNTY	1457	53	51	96.23%	-2	
SOUTHWEST MINN	1468	22	18	81.82%	-4	
TOTALS		1344	849	63.17%	-495	



VOYAGEURS ALL

Congratulations goes out to Bayport/Stillwater for reaching 100%. As of Thursday Dec. 5th 2013 Grande du Minnesota is at 24th place at National. Currently the Grande has 849 memberships turned in. Voiture 44 Forest Lake had a Active Wreck with 7 Goofs being wrecked on Nov. 23rd. Welcome aboard to the new Voyageurs. Here is were the Grande stands in membership compared with our Minn-Dakota counterparts. South Dakota is in 8th and North Dakota is in 15th. Hopefully the Deer Hunters were able to fill out with Venison this year. In closing I would like to wish all Voyageurs and Dams a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God Bless
Steve Dircks
Grande Membership Directeur

