



Greetings Voyageurs

Greetings my fellow voyageurs.

One of the duties of the Grand Chef (and all voyageurs) is to attend funerals or memorial services of fallen comrades. It is with heartfelt sorrow that I have attended the funerals of 3 Past Grand Chef's de Gare in the last six weeks. My deepest sympathies go to the families of Fred Schmidt(Hutchinson), Bill Lyke(Rochester), and Bob Redden(Osseo). These great 40&8 leaders will be sadly missed by many, myself included.

Other more joyful travels have been to V327 Christmas Party at Byron. Thank you to Chef Joe Brown for the fine hospitality. Attended V415 Promenade in Kimball and V1329 Christmas Party in Little Falls, where fines were collected even at a party. Had a great time at V415 Christmas party and auction. They always have fun at Nursing Scholarship fundraising. I had the privilege of presenting Nursing Scholarships to 5 deserving students at V1281 in Mound at their annual Nurses Training party. Thank you all for the invitations and hospitality. Unfortunately all these parties are very hard on my diet but it has been worth it.

We had a very successful Mid-Winter this year. We had a good showing of Directeurs and good reports. Sadly only about a third of our Voitures were represented. This is where the 40&8 news you say you never receive is created. We need you at these functions to get your input so we don't hear "the same guys always make the decisions". This is NOT true. AWOL's can and do make a huge difference.

V1281 Chef Locale John Torma did a fantastic job of making sure everything was done right and IT WAS. Everything was more than expected. I even got my own parking spot. Thanks John.

I had the pleasure of picking up Chef de Chemin de Fer Pat Beamer from the airport on Friday morning. Chef Pat is from Fernandina, Florida. On the way to the motel, we took a little tour around town and I asked him if he ever drove on water. He said "No, why?" I told him I would show him the white sands of Minnesota. We ventured out on Medicine Lake, hoping to get a photo of him with a jiggle stick in his hand, but too much snow and not a plowed road to follow that didn't happen but we did get about a half mile out on a track made by 4w/d's with no place to turn around. Chef Pat asked me why I rolled my window down being it was so cold outside. I told him that was in case we broke through the ice we could get out of the van. His reply was "OH, SHIT". We did get turned around and back on shore and I think he would have liked to kiss the ground. I kept Chef Pat company for the weekend and learned a lot of the works of National. He is a very friendly, down to earth Voyageur and we had a great time visiting. He gave a great speech at the Saturday night banquet which was well attended. Thank you to Past Grand Chef Marland Ronning for getting him back to the airport on Sunday.

Fellow Correspondants- we need your reports sent to the various Directeurs so they can do their job. Please take reporting seriously. All necessary forms are available on the www.fortyandeight.org website. If you need help in getting them let me know and I will get you copies that you need. We have a supply of new Minnesota Directories available listing all the Grand Directeurs and their addresses. Keep in mind the Minn-Dakota/Grand Wreck will be the first weekend in May. Get some pg's signed up and bring them to Little Falls to be wrecked.

You are all cordially invited to attend my Testimonial which will be April 27. There will be more details in upcoming newsletters but mark the date.

February 9th my Aide de Camp Lloyd will be accompanying me to sunny Mazatlan, Mexico for 3 weeks to keep me from leading astray. Can't wait to get some heat and sun. Grand Chef de Train Steve Dircks is in charge while I'm gone (but he doesn't know it yet)

Adios, Grand Chef Jerry

Jerry Block

"The greatest gift you can give someone is your TIME. Because when you give your time, you are giving a portion of your life that you will never get back."



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.

4/6-14—La Presidents Testimonial Sauk Rapids

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.

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
Jan. 29 Voiture 390, Anoka County,
Richard Hammond, Bub Redepenning
Bob Locker, Cabane Betty Redepenning,
Janis Hammond, Sandra Locker.

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-1468 PIPESTONE	MIKE SCHAFFER	GR CHEF DE TRAIN
V-39 ST. PAUL	DAVE GUSTAFSON	SOUS GR. CHEF DE TRAIN
V-415 ST. CLOUD	DAVE HECTOR	GR. GARD DE LA PORT
V-44 FOREST LAKE	TERRY STEELE	GR. GARD DE LA PORT
V-414 HUTCHINSON	JERRY BLOCK	CHEMINOT NATIONAL
V-806 GRAND RAPIDS	DONALD SNOW	ALT. CHEMINOT NATIONAL
V-327 ROCHESTER	CHUCK KRUGER	GR. COMM. INTENDANT
V-327 ROCHESTER	BOB RONNIGEN	1ST DIST. GR. CHEMINOT
V-327 ROCHESTER	DICK SKILLESTAD	1ST DIST. ALT. GR. CHEM.
V-39 ST. PAUL	TERRY JOHNSON	4TH DIST. GR. CHEMINOT
V-415 ST. CLOUD	PAT WOLNEY	6TH DIST. GR. CHEMINOT
V-806 GRAND RAPIDS	JERRY TRAST	8TH DIST. GR. CHEMINOT
V-806 GRAND RAPIDS	JOHN SELANDER	8TH DIST. ALT. GR. CHEM.



TAPS VOITURE EVERLASTING JANUARY 2014

Robert E. Alander	Apple Valley	V-1457
Walter H. Ask	St. Charles	V-327
Ray Ebertowski	Lino Lakes	V-415
Kent R. Larson	E. Grand Forks	V-734
William Lyke Past Grand Chef	Rochester	V-327
M. J. McCauley	Winona	V-580
Gary Mortensen	New Prague	V-1457
William C. Parke	Monticello	V-1281
Frederick Schmidt Past Grand Chef	Huthchinson	V-414
Eugene Smith	Rosemount	V-1457
Greg Timm	Lakeville	V-1457
Gene Wenthold	Apple Valley	V-1457
Calvin White	Merrifield	V-778

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.

Mid-Winter Promenade

The Annual Mid-Winter Promenade has just finished, with Chef de Chemin de Fer Pat Beamer as our guest. The turn out of Voitures and Locales was Pretty Good, with 54 registered, and the Cabane had 22, not bad, but like always "could have been better". The quality of the reports given by the Cheminots and Grand Directeurs was real good, and as always a good time was had by all.

Now is the time to start to compile the information for the Annual Reports from your Voiture Locale which is to be sent on to the Grand Directeurs. To get the reporting forms go to the National Web Site under FortyandEight follow to resources then on to the Forms & Petite Communiqué, find the forms, fill them out and send to the Grand Directeurs for each of the Programs, all completed forms must be in hard copy, not via email. By filling out the reports this shows what your Locale does along with that of Grand du Minnesota.

The Membership Turn in was good with 47 Memberships turned in bringing Grand du Minnesota's totals up 1051 with 293 to go to reach our Goal of 100% for the year. There were 5 Locale's receiving awards for 100% in membership, they are Voiture Locale 62,634,714,791,1436, their awards will be mailed to the Chef de Gare form these Voitures. Congratulations for a job well done, but remember just because you are at goal the job is still not finished.

Now is the time to endorse those Officers for the coming year, as listed in this news letter there are still District's with no endorsements lets fill all of the vacancies.

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.** We still need Endorsements for the Cheminot's from Each District. Go to your Locale and seek out those to fill these Offices, as they are the Leaders with in the Forty and Eight. Cheminots are still needed for the following Districts; 2nd Dist., 3rd Dist., 4th Dist. Alt., 5th Dist., 6th Dist. Alt., 7th Dist., 9th Dist., and 10th Dist. 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

FORTY and EIGHT ELIGILITY

There has been some question as "Just Who Can join the Forty and Eight", hear is the answer.

WHO MAY BECOME MEMBERS. No persons other than honorably discharged U. S. military personnel and active duty U. S. military may become members of La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux. No Grande Voiture, or Voiture Locale, may prescribe or establish any eligibility qualifications for membership in La Societe which are in conflict with the Constitution of Voiture Nationale.

This should answer every ones questions.



Chef de Chemin de Fer Pat Beamer & Chef de Gare Jerry Block with Eagle, gift at Mid-Winter in Osseo.



TESTIMONIAL LUNCHEON FOR



LA GRANDE PRESIDENTE

ARLETTE HARTUNG

**APRIL 6, 2014 @ 1:00 PM
SAUK RAPIDS AMERICAN LEGION**

CHEMINOT PRIOR @11:00 AM

**ROAST BEEF SANDWICH
CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP
CAKE AND ICE CREAM**

\$10.00

NAME _____ **Cabane/Voiture** _____

Title _____

Address _____

Number Attending _____

**Mail with check to Bev Grose American Legion
415 North Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Please RSVP by March 31, 2014**

**GRAND VOITURE DU MINNESOTA
MEMBERSHIP AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2014**

VOITURE	#	2013	2014	% of Quota	Short
ST. PAUL PARK	33	24	20	83.33%	-4
ST. PAUL	39	45	41	91.11%	-4
FOREST LAKE	44	59	34	57.63%	-25
MINNEAPOLIS	45	46	45	97.83%	-1
CHIPPEWA COUNTY	54	8	3	37.50%	-5
MADISON	62	26	26	100.00%	0
MANKATO	281	70	49	70.00%	-22
ROCHESTER	327	101	84	83.17%	-17
ANOKA	390	38	21	55.26%	-17
HUTCHINSON	414	132	86	65.15%	-46
ST. CLOUD	415	77	40	51.95%	-37
WINONA	580	22	21	95.45%	-1
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	23	82.14%	-5
PEQUOT LAKES	754	27	19	70.37%	-8
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	35	77.78%	-10
RAMSEY COUNTY	838	19	1	5.26%	-18
ALBERT LEA	1210	10	1	10.00%	-9
MINNETONKA	1281	96	75	78.13%	-21
FAIRBAULT	1324	28	15	53.57%	-13
LITTLE FALLS	1329	52	42	80.77%	-10
WILLMAR	1413	33	20	60.61%	-13
ROSEAU	1436	36	37	102.78%	1
DAKOTA COUNTY	1457	53	51	96.23%	-2
SOUTHWEST MINN	1468	22	18	81.82%	-4
TOTALS		1344	1011	75.22%	-333



VOYAGEURS ALL

Would like to start off thanking the Voitures that brought membership to the 40 & 8 Mid-Winter.

As of Feb. 6, Grand du Minn stands at 36th place at National.

The Grand has 1065 memberships into National. With only 279 left to reach our goal for the 2014 membership year. That puts us at 79.24%.

Don't forget to be looking for our next new Goof. Grand du Minn will be holding an active wreck in conjunction with the Minn - Dakota on May 2-3-4, 2014 in Little Falls. Morrison County Voiture 1329 will be hosting this event.

Steve Dircks

Steve Dircks

Grand Membership Directeur