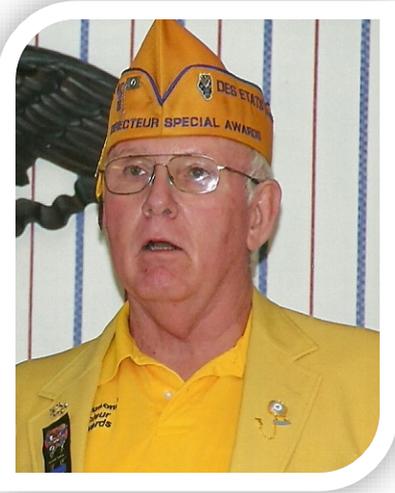


GRAND SPECIAL AWARDS

Happy New Year and may this be the best Year ever to you and your families! I can only speak for my neck of the woods, but so far, this year, Illinois has been a COLD one, 16 continuous days below freezing! Hope it's warmer in your area.



The proverbial New Year is upon us and many of us wipe the slate clean and make resolutions for what ever we think needs attention. These can be from losing weight to cleaning our shops or basements, some may be to resolve to quit putting things off, procrastinating! You guessed it! Don't put off starting a nomination for one of the Special Awards.

The four Awards are HOY, LOY, VOY and City/Town of the Year. The first step is to select a candidate to nominate, once you have determined a candidate, get started. Remind the Voyageurs in your Locale that candidates can be found in the news media, word of mouth at the local hang out or first-hand involvement. The City/Town nomination is how your Home Town honors Veterans and makes it a great place to live for you and your family etc.. Once you decide on an Award nominee get started. First of all, get the guidelines from the Nationale website, select the Petite Communiqué, click on Special Awards and the mandatory forms, Nomination and Participation, and guidelines for each Award are there.

Read these over and get started. I know in the past, I have had a corny acronym, PIE, to try to get involvement in Special Awards, the letters standing for Promote, Inform and Encourage, it is our responsibility to get as much activity for the Special Awards as possible, sometimes we have to think outside the box! Get the Voyageurs attention, plant the seed and point them in the right direction by offering any or all the help they need to put a Nomination package together.

I have been involved in the Special Awards Program for a few years and believe me I'm still learning something new every year! Talk about the Program at your Locale Promenades. Get the message about Special Awards to the Membership! Serve up a big piece of PIE!

The membership in the General's Club is another way to help Special Awards. The dues paid are to help Nationale offset the cost of transportation and housing for the LOY at Nationale Promenade. Membership can only be offered to a Voyageur or Le Femme by a current member so make sure your dues in the General's club are paid and start recruiting new members!

While I'm talking about membership, have you recruited a new member in La Société this year? This or any other Program needs new members to keep the activities we have going and make them better in the future! Heck don't just get 1, sign up 2, and get an I GOT TWO pin for your Chapeau! You will be glad you did! I know this letter is a long one, I believe that if we don't inform and aid our membership about Special Awards, it will be overlooked!

My e-mail is mrbear812@sbcglobal.net and phone # is 309-338-8332, if you have questions or comments or need answers, I will be glad to assist, we are all still learning, no matter how familiar we are to our endeavors!

Wally Hammond
Grand Directeur Special Awards
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