



Voiture Nationale 40&8



VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

Send your Articles and photos with descriptions to VoyageurBriefs@gmail.com

Paul J. Emmert, Sr – Chef de Chemin de Fer



Greetings Voyageurs and Dames!

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy during the hot days of Summer, but I will definitely take it over sub-zero temperatures.

As you all know, we are in the homestretch of another Voyageur year, and since my last Briefs article, I have done the lion's share of my travels. In April, I went to North Carolina for La

Presidente Nationale Cindy Hickey's Homecoming, and Cleveland, Tennessee for Southland's Dixie. This was followed up with a long weekend in Indiana for the "trifecta" of the Razzberry, Nurse's Training Banquet, and the Chef's Wreck, then two weeks later, a flight to Phoenix, Arizona for the Grande du Arizona Promenade, and then I closed out May with one of the greatest honors of my life, the laying of a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. June kicked off with a flight to Illinois for the Great Lakes Promenade, and I closed out the month with a weekend in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, for the final walkthrough for Promenade Nationale, the Mid-Atlantic Association Spring Promenade, and finally, the Grande du Penn-

sylvania Cheminot. Yes, it was a packed weekend. I will provide more details on all of those trips, as well as my final trips of the year in the next issue of the 40&8er, due out in early August.

Now, as Paul Harvey would say, "The Rest of the Story". Regarding the upcoming Promenade Nationale in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, I would suggest that if you plan on attending, and have not yet made your hotel reservations, that you do so as soon as possible. The last I was informed, the Aspire was sold out, or very nearly sold out, and the Eisenhower is quickly following suit. If you are unable to secure a reservation at one of the primary hotels, there will be an overflow hotel, although it will not be in walking distance to the Promenade venue.

Now, I am going to touch on something that everyone needs to be keenly aware of, and that is avoiding being caught in an online or email scam. In the last few weeks, a number of Nationale Officers, both Voyageurs and Dames alike, have received emails that purported to be from either the "La Presidente Nationale" Cindy Hickey, or "Chef de Chemin de Fer Paul J. Emmert, Sr.", myself. They may seem innocuous in nature, just asking for you to reply, or to call a number, but they can also be more intrusive, asking for you to send gift cards, wire money, etc. **Rest assured, they did not originate from us.** They originated from peo-



Paul J. Emmert, Sr – Chef de Chemin de Fer (Continued from p1)

ple doing “phishing” or “spoofing” to try to get information from you. The first “red flag” should be the email it is coming from. The key is to know the real person’s email address, which will always show at the top of the email. Anyone can create an email with anyone else’s name. My email is fairly public, and those that need it have it. If you don’t see that in the “From:” section of the email, then it is probably a scam. Never comply with anything requested in emails such as these without calling Voiture Nationale or Cabane Nationale first, and verifying that the email is legitimate. Don’t call numbers listed in the email, and if you decide to reach out, call a number that you already have for that person. Be smart, and be safe online. People with nefarious intent want you to slip up. Just don’t give them the satisfaction.

Finally, we are approaching the end of the year for membership and national reports. Now is the time to get those last renewals in, and also to finish and submit the annual program reports. If you haven’t already sent them in, you are late. As for the reports, remember, almost everything you do in support of veterans can be attributed and credited to one of our programs. Get the recognition you deserve. Complete the reports and send them in now.

That is all that I have for this issue of the Briefs, and I hope to see many of you on my final trips as your Chef, but if I don’t, just know I am forever grateful for the opportunity you have bestowed upon me this year, and I will see you all in Gettysburg.

Voyageur Briefs Concepts

Would you like some more publicity for your Locale, Grande, or Community? Submit an article in Microsoft Word with some clear photographs for inclusion into the Voyageur Briefs. You may email clear photos with a description of each photo including date, names of people, and location to voyageurbriefs@gmail.com.

Some quick guidelines....

First: Let’s keep the Voyageur Briefs just that.... brief . Submit your short articles and photos (with names, dates, descriptions, and locations) and I’ll get the quality photos into this format to enhance the effectivity of your harassment. Note: The photos cannot be blurry, must have appropriate zoom, and be of high enough resolution for print. I can help wordsmith some things for you if writing is not your strength.

Second: The Voyageur Briefs are published quarterly. This means articles for specific holidays may be best described for the next quarter. The next Voyageur Briefs will be published in late-August, so articles for holidays in July through September would be most effective.

Third: Keep it fun! There is no formal requirement for photo or story submission but keep it brief. Chapeau’s aren’t required and reasonably PC photos will be published!



DIGITAL UPDATE! IT'S 2023, NOT Y2K!

This is the place to add links to important forms, communique, etc. Links and descriptions only! That’s the purpose of a digital presence... You can just click-and-go.

Nationale: <https://www.fortyandeight.org/>

See what you’re officers are up to! Official Travel: <https://www.fortyandeight.org/official-travel/>

Correspondant National

Ron Rolfes

Greetings Voyageurs!

It has been an action packed few months, and we won't be slowing down anytime soon. The first part of May, I made a trip up to Indianapolis to visit the office staff and then it was off to Lafayette, IN. for the Nurses Training Banquet. Twenty talented young ladies received \$2,000 scholarships each. The next day we drove down to Shelbyville, IN. for the Razzberry and Chef's wreck. If memory serves, five PGs survived the rainy day to become Voyageurs. Many thanks to the Voyageurs and Dames of Indiana for the outstanding Hospitality.



June started off with the Great Lakes Promenade which was held in De Kalb, IL. That trip took me in and out of Chicago O'Hare International. Need I say anymore. At the end of the month, I was scheduled for the walkthrough inspection in Gettysburg, PA. For anyone flying into the area, Harrisburg International is the airport into which you will go. It's a nice small modern little airport. I did not find it difficult to navigate at all. For anyone renting a car, the rental counters are just across the street in the parking garage. The trip to Gettysburg is about 50 miles and will take about an hour. Good roads all the way and expect to pay a little over \$10 in tolls round trip. (The tolls are pay by plate, so the rental agency will bill you later).

The hotels (Eisenhower and Aspire) themselves are nice. The Eisenhower is the older of the two, built in 1954 and still holds some of that eclectic charm. The Aspire is the newer of the two and a bit more modern. The pool, bar / restaurant, gift shop / deli is located in the Eisenhower and the fitness room in the Aspire. The town of Gettysburg is nearby (just a few miles) and there is a bus that runs on the hour from the hotel into town (\$1.25). There are plenty of restaurants, shops, and other things to see as well as the battlefields. I could go on and on but don't want to let all the secrets out. I do want to express my sincere gratitude to the Pennsylvania folks for the superb hospitality. Thank you!!

As we enter the final month of the membership year, it is time to give it that last final push. With this being the end of the fiscal year, we are busy closing out the books, preparing budgets and getting all the final details together for your Promenade Nationale.

Speaking of Promenade Nationale, if you haven't registered or made your hotel reservations, I encourage you to do so NOW. If the headquarters hotels are full, we do have an overflow hotel at our disposal. Contact us for more information. Also, while you are on the website check out the 106th Promenade Nationale "Commemorative" Coin and be sure to have your Locale, Grande or even you submit an AD for the Program Book as part of the "Correspondants Challenge". All this information and more can be found on our website at www.fortyandeight.org/promenade-nationale. Lastly, anyone thinking of running for an elected National position for the 2026 membership year, please get your "Letter of Intent" to me ASAP.

Thoughts of a Sous Aumonier Nationale

James Bowman, Sous Aumonier Nationale

Greetings Voyageurs and Dames,

Bible prophecy says that just before the end, there will be times of difficulty, human ignorance, false security, and rebellion against Jesus Christ. How far have we progressed toward that today? We don't have to look far to be convinced that our lives are filled with uncertainty. The world spins in chaos with every news cycle, and the every day circumstances of our lives toss new and sometimes inventive unknowns at us. Like Noah, we have a responsibility to warn an indifference world, and to hold fast to faith and hope. As a Christian and true believer in God and Jesus Christ, please continue to have faith and trust in God and turn to him for guidance and wisdom and strength during these troubling times and days. May God bless you and La Societe always.

Subaru Motor Corporation in collaboration with Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Donates Patient Care Kits

Voiture Nationale was recently contacted by Dan Gentilucci-Corporate Specialist from Subaru regarding donating four hundred and fifty (450) patient care kits and blankets. Subaru manufacturing plant in Lafayette, Indiana wanted to become involved with a campaign known as "Subaru of America" which is held during the months of May and June called "Subaru Loves to Care".

A national partner, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), provides them with blankets and care kits to donate to organizations that can find these items a good home. The Forty and Eight was nominated by one or more of its Lafayette Employees. Below is the website that explains how this was all started over the past two (2) years, which has allowed LLS and Subaru to deliver blankets, messages of hope and arts and crafts kits to 70,000 patients in more than 400 hospitals through 475 Subaru retailers.

www.lls.org/article/subaru-loves-care-program

Voiture National has contacted Voiture and Cabane 364 in Lafayette, Indiana for volunteers to help hand out these donations to the Lafayette area Veterans, VA Hospitals, Clinics, State Homes, and Senior Living Facilities in the area.

Congratulations to Lafayette, Indiana!! A very huge Thank You to Subaru and the Subaru employees!!!

2025 Heart-Shaped Blanket



Patient Care Kits include a custom activity book, colored pencils, fuzzy socks, silk pillowcase/bag, collapsible water bottle, heart shaped stress ball, LLS nutrition recourse card and a hot/cold gel bed pack.



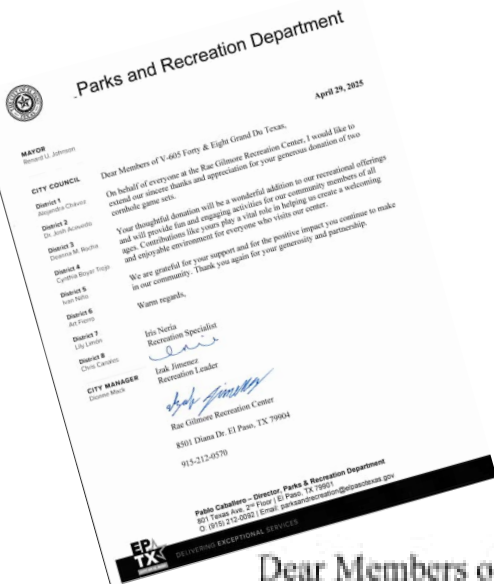
VOITURE 605 du EL PASO of GRANDE du TEXAS

Renslar "Renny" Keagle, National Directeur of Public Relations, La Societe, 40 & 8

On April 28, 2025, members of V-605 presented to the Rae-Gilmore El Paso Parks and Recreation Center two corn-hole game sets. Closed during Covid and undergoing renovation, the rec center recently reopened to the youth in the area. Equipment and game materials were needed to attract kids in the area to provide a safe and fun environment. V-605 saw the need and using available funds from a Grand du Texas youth sports raffle, two pro-cornhole sets were given to this local community center.



(L - R) Roger Folmar, Renny Keagle, Iris Neria (Recreation Specialist/ Manager), Alison Thompson Hall (Chef de Gare) and Mike Hall (Locale Correspondant and Chef de Gare Passe)



Dear Members of V-605 Forty & Eight Grand Du Texas,

On behalf of everyone at the Rae Gilmore Recreation Center, I would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for your generous donation of two cornhole game sets.

Your thoughtful donation will be a wonderful addition to our recreational offerings and will provide fun and engaging activities for our community members of all ages. Contributions like yours play a vital role in helping us create a welcoming and enjoyable environment for everyone who visits our center.

We are grateful for your support and for the positive impact you continue to make in our community. Thank you again for your generosity and partnership.

Warm regards,

VOITURE 414 du CITY of GRANDE du MINNESOTA Jerry Block

Members of Voiture 414 du Minnesota giving a Flags for First Graders class and giving out flag pins and coloring books.



VOITURE 1163 du LEAVENWORTH of GRANDE du KANSAS Jack LeRoy, Correspondant

Voiture Locale 1163 Chef de Train Sid Brown and Cheminot Tony Monaco presenting ribbons and the presidential metal to Junior ROTC in Leavenworth representing the 40&8.

Tony in white super recruiter jacket and Chapeau and Sidney Brown in red officers shirt and Chapeau representing 1163 of Grande du Kansas.



VOITURE 36 du SAN BERNADINO COUNTY of GRANDE du CALIFORNIA
Paul Pfeifer, Correspondant

Voiture 36 du San Bernardino County du Grand CA presented St. Adelaide's First Grade Class with a "Flags 4 First Graders" course.



Class teachers (Ms. Lopez and aide) along with Voiture 36 Instructors Gregory 'Rocky' Torres (Directueur of Americanism and Aumonier), Norma Martinez (Grand Sous Dir POW/MIA), Kevin Stonestreet (Voyageur), Phillip Martinez (SON's 421)



Voiture 36 joined with SON's American Legion Post 106 Redlands in a recent fundraiser.

Seated: Lee Lombard (Commissaire Intendant), Ben DePasopil (Lampiste), Steve Newlen (Conducteur)

Standing: Henry 'Mo' Cardiel (Garde de La Porte), Tim Panzer (Voyageur), Bruce Voss (Chef de Gare), Gregory 'Rocky' Torres (Aumonier), Paul Pfeifer (Grand District 4 Sous Cheminot).

VOITURE 1637 du BURLINGTON of GRANDE du NEW YORK

Wayne Sorrentino, Chef de Gare

A Memorial Day Parade in Kenmore, NY was organized and run by the MJ Brounshidle Post #205 of The American Legion on May 26, 2025.

Shown in the photo are five Voyageurs from V-1637 in Burlington, Ontario, Canada: VM Arnie Tuchow, VM Ron Zabrok (100-Years old), VM Jim DeLair (NY resident), VM Rob Williams, non-Voyageur Ralph Edwards (Burl-Oak Vets of Canada) and Chef de Gare Wayne Sorrentino (NY resident). The four vets from Canada travelled to Kenmore, NY to participate in the Memorial Day Parade, run by Chef Wayne Sorrentino who is also the Legion Post Adjutant, Children & Youth Chairman and the Parade Chairman. We had 64 units in the parade, up from 53 units last year and getting bigger since the COVID years. Missing from this photo are members of Royal Canadian Legion Post 71 in Ft Erie, Ontario, Canada who paraded with us: Murray Marlog, Commander and Janice Haney, House Manager and her husband who were apparently camera shy. Our parade is the largest parade in the area & growing.

VietNam Vets were the featured / honored group in this year's parade. Our parade has been in place for over 75 years and features veterans' groups, local school marching bands, motorcycle groups, Scouts and civic organizations. The parade also includes fire companies, first responders, elected officials, car clubs (Model T, Corvettes, etc.), local merchants, pipe and drum bands and many others.



Happy Retirement, Lottie Sharp!

Lottie Sharp York, a Nurse Practitioner, will be retiring from the Vancouver VA Medical Center, Vancouver, Oregon after 33 years of service to our Nations Veterans. For 20 of those years our very own Sous Directeur Child Welfare Frank Matlock was in her care. Why is this important? **Lottie's nursing career started with a 40 et 8 Scholarship!**



Pictured above is Frank and Lottie saying their goodbyes as well as Frank presenting her with a letter and plaque on behalf of National Directeur Nurses Training Kevin Johnson. She will be greatly missed.

GRANDE du CALIFORNIA

Grand Promenade of Grand du California was held at Stanislaus Voiture 653 in Modesto, CA where the survivor of a POW/MIA was awarded a scholarship.



(L-R)
Anthony Castillo (POW/MIA Sous Directeur Nationale)
Katelyn Reeves (Scholarship Recipient)
Timothy Gilbert (Chef de Gare Grand du California)

RANDO!!! (Submit RANDOm photos with info to VoyageurBriefs@gmail.com)

An **ANONYMOUS** sender provided this photo from the Grande du Indiana Promenade of the Ohio Grande Chef de Gare Todd McIlrath, Joe Dolwig (National Time and Place), and Chef de Chemin de Fer 2023 Frank Kronen. Apparently, the Indiana Grand Correspondant likes bow ties.



Daniel Damigo, Nationale Sous Directeur Public Relations Area 1, reported a great time was had at the Great Western held in McMinnville, Oregon.



RANDO!!! (Submit RANdOm photos with info to VoyageurBriefs@gmail.com)

Some really cool people at the Southland Dixie!

