

Whistle Stop

February 2024



A publication of the Grand du Michigan Forty and Eight

From the Grand Chef de Gare

The 40 et 8 has lost a lion. Verne Eccleston was dedicated to veterans organizations, including Voiture 997 of La Societe. Verne was Grand Chef de Gare, Grand du Michigan, in 1986-87, and achieved the title of Chef de Chemin de Fer from 1998 to 1999. Sadly, he succumbed on Jan. 16 to the cancer that he had bravely fought for the final years of his life.

For me, Verne was a dear friend. He was there the day I became a Voyageur when I was wrecked in March of 1995 at Post 324 in Michigan Center. My friend Vern was in attendance.

Vern was instrumental in me getting the Nationale VAVS appointment. I have attended Wrecks and Promenades Nationale with Vern and Judy. He was a great man and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.



I was privileged to take part in his memorial on Jan. 25, joining Chefs de Chemin de Fer passe, Grand officers and Voyageurs in offering him a final salute, which he richly deserved. Rest in peace, my friend. As we prepare for Spring Cheminot in March, it is important for Voitures Locale to report any members who have passed away during the time between Grand Promenades. We want to make sure they are remembered during the memorial service at Grand Promenade in August.

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From the Grande La Presidente

Hello, Dames.

I hope this finds you all in good health and spirits. On the bright side, only 54 days until spring.

Membership is coming along; 3 Locales are at 100% (1536 @ 109.5%) and the others are coming along. Good work!

Let's get all of those renewals in and recruit more.

Spring Cheminot is on March 16, please note on Official Call the starting time. It has been moved to later in the day to

accommodate the Grand Chef's Homecoming that same evening. I'm sure paperwork for that will be included with this edition.

I hope to see many of you there. Until then, stay safe and healthy.

Yours in service.

Lori Coe
Grande La Presidente
Grande du Michigan



From the Grand Correspondant

Fellow Voyageurs,

Happy new year. We've managed to make it one more trip around the sun. Let's keep it up!

Next month we once again gather for Spring Cheminot, and I honestly hope we can have a showing of more than 20 Voyageurs. It will take place at American Legion Post 315, 211 Chicago St., Brooklyn MI. Registration begins at 1200 and Executive Committee meets at 1430 and Spring Cheminot takes place at 1500. This is your opportunity to have a voice as to how your Grand is managed and how you can have an active role in future activities. Please see the Official Call in this edition.

The Grand Chef's Homecoming will take place with cocktails at 1600 and dinner at 1700. Menu is hot beef or turkey sandwich and dessert table. A cash bar will be available.

Registration is \$15. Details are on Page 4 of this Whistle Stop edition. Please try to make it to this event to show the Grand Chef your support.

In August we will elect new officers. We have been fortunate to have a full Grand Line for the first time in quite a while and it would be great if that can continue for the 2024-25 period.

We know membership is less than vibrant, particularly new, younger members. One way to get the word out is to convince your local media -- television and newspapers -- to cover some of the events at your Locales. I am the PR Directeur for Voiture 946 and alerted the media we were having a children's Christmas party and stuffing our train with Toys for Tots. Our local NBC affiliate came out and we had a few minutes on the news to tell what the 40 et 8 is and how our activities serve our community.

Respectfully,

Rich Adams

Grand Correspondant

Richadams946@gmail.com

517-388-4962

From the Grand Avocat

Greetings, Voyageurs.

I hope everybody satisfactorily got through the holidays. Sadly we are

preparing to attend services for the late Chef de Chemin de Fer Vern Eccleston. He was a dear friend and one of the two Nurses Training reports that I could count on for many years. He certainly will be missed.



There is a plan for the family's

wishes. If you can't find it, give me a call and I'll let you know.

Spring Cheminot will be coming up soon. Keep your eye out for the Official Call. As you may well know, anyone that has not paid dues for 2024 is now delinquent. We need to get them in and catch up on unpaid pin sales. Hope to see you soon. Take care and be safe.

James Coe II

Grand Avocat

From the Grand Chef de Gare

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Spring Cheminot is just around the corner on March 16 at American Legion Post 315, 211 Chicago St. in Brooklyn, MI. The Official Call is in this edition of The Whistle Stop. My Homecoming will take place shortly after Spring Cheminot ends, at the same location. Registration for that event is also in this edition.

Finally, if you haven't paid your dues by this time, you have forfeited your benefits as a Voyageur in the Grand du Michigan. If you fail to pay dues in two years, you risk being dropped from Michigan's roster. Please pay the membership dues you owe so you do not lose any of the benefits that go with being a member of the 40 et 8.

Yours in comradeship ,

Your Grand Chef de Gare

Clare W Knickerbocker

Grand du Michigan

ckcovv@yahoo.com

Grand du Michigan



Grand Chef de Gare
Clare Knickerbocker
2360 Tecumseh Drive
Brooklyn MI 49230
970-946-9756
ckcovv@yahoo.com

Grand Correspondant
Rich Adams
1919 Danbury E
Okemos MI 48864
517-388-4962
richadams946@gmail.com

La Societe Des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

To: Grand Officers
Grand Cheminots
Voiture Officers

Grand Committeemen
Grand Executive Committee
Interested Voyageurs

By order of the Chef de Gare, Grand du Michigan, the Spring Grand Cheminot will be held Saturday, March 16, 2024 at American Legion Post 315, 211 Chicago St., Brooklyn, MI 49230

Pre-registration \$10, mail to Rich Adams, 1919 Danbury E., Okemos MI 48864.
MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO VOITURE 746.
Snacks and coffee will be available at registration.

Registration for Voyageurs begins at 1200.

Uniform of the Day: Red Shirts and Chapeaus

SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 16, 2024: Executive Committee meets 1430.

The Executive Committee will open the meeting then each committee will be called in the following order; Finance and Audit, Time and Place, and Credentials and Resolutions, then the Executive Committee will close the meeting.

Grand Cheminot begins at 1500

All Officers, Cheminots and Committee Directeurs are advised to provide a written copy of their report to the Grand Correspondant when giving their report.

The Grand Chef's Homecoming will follow Spring Cheminot with Cocktail Hour from 1600 to 1700. Registration for Homecoming is included in this mailing, It also will be in the February edition of The Whistle Stop and on the Grand du Michigan Facebook page and on the Grand Website at www.40et8michigan.com.

Clare Knickerbocker
Grand Chef de Gare

Rich Adams
Grand Correspondant



La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, Grand du Michigan

Homecoming

for Grand Chef de Gare Clare Knickerbocker.
Homecoming will follow Spring Cheminot on

March 16, 2024

**At American Legion Post 315, 211 Chicago St.,
Brooklyn, MI**

**Cocktails from 4-5 p.m.
Dinner at 5 p.m.**

Menu is hot beef or hot turkey sandwich and dessert table.

Cost is \$15 per person.

A cash bar will available.

*RSVP to Clare Knickerbocker by March 1, 2024 at
ckcovv@yahoo.com or via mail at 2360 Tecumseh Drive, Brooklyn
MI 49230*

Room reservations at the Super 8 by Wyndham, rooms available for \$102 a night.

Call (517) 592-0888

Mention 40 et 8 for a military discount



The Voyageurs & Dames of Grande du & de Wisconsin

63RD GREAT LAKES PROMENADE

Wisconsin - Michigan

Illinois - Indiana - Ohio

New York - Pennsylvania

June 6, 7 & 8th, 2024



Hotel Information

You are responsible for making your own reservations

LaQuinta by Wyndham

3800 W College Ave, Appleton WI 53914

HOTEL RATE: Single or Double Queen , King \$75 plus tax per night

Free Continental Breakfast

Code: Great Lakes 40 & 8 Promenade

Microwave, Refrigerator, WIFI

Hotel Direct Line: 920-734-7777

Fitness Center

Room Block Held Until: May 6th 2024

Accessible rooms available

To View the Hotel and its guest rooms, amenities, local restaurants and the Fox Valley attractions visit the following website links:

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/laquinta/appleton-wisconsin/la-quinta-appleton-college-avenue/overview?checkInDate=06/05/2024&checkOutDate=06/09/2024&groupCode=40GL624>

www.foxcities.org

Program Ad Information

Great way to **advertise** your future **Grand & Local events** seen by **40 & 8 members** of the **Great Lakes State's**. **63RD GREAT LAKES PROMENADE Program Booklet** will be 5½ x 8½

Full-page: \$50.00

Half-page: \$25.00

Checks:

Voiture 1140

Program Ads: Word format and Email to: edelblutejohn@gmail.com

Deadline:

We must have received your ad, booster sheet & payment by: May 10th, 2024



63RD GREAT LAKES PROMENADE

June 6, 7 & 8th, 2024

Preliminary Schedule

Thursday, June 5th	9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.	Registration
	10:00 A.M. - Midnight	Hospitality Room Open
Friday, June 6th	10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.	Registration
	9:00 A.M. - Noon	Bloody Mary Party (Hickory Rm)
	10:00 A.M. - Midnight	Hospitality Room Open
	4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.	Great Lakes Promenade
		Session I
	5:30 P.M.. - Midnight	Hospitality Re-opens
Saturday, June 7th	9:30 A.M.	Memorial Service
	Immediately Following	Great Lakes Promenade
		Session II
	11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.	Hospitality Room Open
	5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.	Attitude Adjustment
	6:00 P.M.	Banquet
	30 Minutes After the Closing	Hospitality Re-opens



63rd Great Lakes Promenade June 6-8, 2024

Registration Form Banquet Meal
Ad & Booster's

Friday Fish Fry (additional cost) at American Legion Post 38

Johnston-Blessman Post 38, 3220 W. College Ave., Appleton, Wisconsin

Dinner Choices: Broasted Chicken (Mashed potatoes, Stuffing and Vegetable)
Beef Stroganoff and Noodles. Vegetarian Option: Large Salad (Must indicate Vegetarian choice
in advance) Dinner Rolls, Coffee and Dessert. Served Family Style

Voyager and Guest Registration Fee & Family Style Dinner is \$60 per person

Anticipated day of arrival: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ V# _____ C# _____ Grand: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Chicken & Beef _____ Vegetarian _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ V# _____ C# _____ Grand: _____

Chicken & Beef _____ Vegetarian _____

Registrations __ X \$60 = \$ _____ Name: _____ V# _____ C# _____

Boosters __ X \$2.00 = \$ _____ Name: _____ V# _____ C# _____

\$2.00 for each name. example: Mr. & Mrs. Smith = \$4.00

Program Ad: \$ _____ ½ page \$25.00 full page \$50.00

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ Ck#: _____ Date: _____

Checks: Voiture 1140

Mailed: Jim Vissers 130 E. Hoover Ave., Appleton, WI 54915 (920) 739-4506

Program Ad's: Word format and Email to: edelblutejohn@gmail.com