



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
LA SOCIETE DES QUARANTE HOMMES ET HUIT  
CHEVAUX, GRANDE DU MINNESOTA & LA SOCIETE  
DE FEMME, GRANDE DE MINNESOTA



# L'ETOILE DU NORDE

**March 2024**

## Grand Chef de Gare Gary Miller

### Grand Chef de Gare

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Greetings Grande du  
Minnesota!

This month I attended my  
own Voiture 327's Prome-  
nade. On 24 February, I  
attended the finance meet-  
ing, Cheminot meeting and  
Grand Mid Winter.

If any Voiture is having a  
Wreck or would like me to  
attend your next Prome-  
nade, please send me the  
information and I will do  
my best to be there!

If you are planning to at-  
tend the 105th Promenade  
and 65th Rendezvous Natio-  
nale in Sandusky, Ohio you  
should get your hotel reser-  
vations made and registra-  
tion forms submitted.

We still have two Voitures  
that have not turned in ANY  
memberships for the 2024  
membership year. Those  
Voyageurs have no privi-  
leges and the officers of  
those Voitures are disquali-  
fied until they get their  
dues turned in.

Congratulations to the Voi-  
tures that are at or above  
100%!

Grand Chef De Gare,

Gary Miller  
507-696-5419  
gmusmc32@yahoo.com

### Upcoming Events:

- Grande Promenade,  
Hutchinson, July 19-  
21, 2024
- 105th Promenade and  
65th Rendezvous Na-  
tionale, September 17  
-21, 2024

## Grand Correspondant Kevin Kibler



**Greetings Grande du Minnesota!**

**We just had our Grande Mid-Winter and Cheminot. Attendance was fair, but it could always be better. I would encourage everyone to attend Grande functions, as socializing and laughter is always abundant. You may even learn a thing or two. I would like to thank V-415 for hosting.**

**For those not in attendance the Blue Chevaliers sent a certificate of appreciation to Grande du Minnesota for donations. If you aren't a member of the Blue Chevaliers, I would highly recommend it.**

**Also, the Grande received a letter of appreciation for sponsoring a hole at the 8th annual Last Man Club Golf Classic. Since the 2018 creation of the LMC Veterans Relief Fund, the Last Man Club has assisted over 130 Local veterans and has provided over \$115,000 in emergency relief.**

**Now is the time to get your endorsements from your Locale if you are wishing to run for any elected Grande du Minnesota office. It takes a little time for your Correspondants from your Locale to type it up and get it sent in. Don't be rude and wait until the last minute and expect miracles.**

**It is never too early to start reminding all Locale Correspondants that you will have to have your officer lists turned in before the opening session of Grande Promenade or anyone from your Locale will not have a vote.**

**The Grande will be making a Directory for next year, we will get the information from the above-mentioned Officer Lists, if we do not receive one it will be noted in the directory (A little extra pressure to GET IT DONE).**

**The Correspondant Nationale has issued a challenge to all Grands and Locales. It can be found on the Nationale website, under the Promenade Nationale tab. (This is a subtle hint.)**

**Locale Voiture 281 will be having a formal wreck at the VFW in Mankato, April 14th , at 1:30 pm. If any Locales need to have a goof wrecked, bring them down!!!**

**Grand Correspondant's Contact Information:**

**Email: MN40and8@gmail.com**

**Phone: 540-735-6199**

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR:  
GRAND CHEF DE GARE PASSE  
CHARLES HARTUNG**

GRAND CHEF DE GARE PASSE CHARLSE HARTUNG PASSED ON TO VOITURE  
EVERLASTING ON 16 NOVEMBER 2023.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE WILL BE HELD AT THE IRONTON AMERICAN LEGION  
POST ON 11 MAY 2024 BEGINNING AT 1:00 PM. THE 40&8 MEMORIAL  
CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 2:00 PM.

BURIAL WILL BE HELD ON 13 MAY 2024 AT 1:00 PM AND WILL TAKE PLACE AT  
THE LITTLE FALLS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY.

THE FAMILY HAS ASKED THAT EVERYON WHERE RED, WHITE AND BLUE IN  
GRAND CHEF HARTUNG'S HONOR. IT IS ALSO ASKED THAT VOYAGEURS WEAR  
THEIR CHAPEAUS AND DAMES WEAR THEIR BERETS.



**LEST WE FORGET**

For the 2024 Membership  
Year:

Thomas Burns, V-39  
Robert Foley, V-1436  
Alvin Fugleberg, V-1436  
Dave Graves, V-580  
David Gustafson, V-39  
Thomas Hamilton, V-1281  
Charles Hartung, V-415  
Harry Hodgmann, Jr.,  
V-45  
Douglas Inselman, V-414  
Marion Jaycox, V-180

Steve Jensen, V-414  
James Kennedy, V-714  
Marty Koepp, V-414  
Robert Larson, V-415  
Terry Lehman, V-1281  
Robert Lubenow, V-62  
Michael Ogle, V-415  
John Peck, V-1329  
James Proulx, V-772  
Roger Sachs, V-1457  
Tim Sanken, V-414  
Virgil Voigt, V-414  
Richard Watland, V-1457  
Gene Wenthold, V-1457

Let's talk about membership. This is a topic that causes some grumbling. Some may think that all they ever hear is Membership, Membership, Membership. There's a good reason for this.

It pertains to us all. Every year membership decreases. If we don't actively work to maintain the members we have, and to bring in new members, then sooner or later this great organization will fade away. Our forefathers took the time and effort to create and maintain this organization, it is our duty to strive to keep it alive and to continue to make it better.

If your Locale is sluggish on inviting Veterans to join because you do not have enough active Voyageurs to perform a wreck, then please contact the Grand Chef de Gare or the Grand Correspondant. We have many Voyageurs who would be more than happy to come and assist, or even conduct the wreck itself.

Now let's talk about our current retention numbers. We have 28 Locales in Grande du Minnesota. Last year they ranged from 7 members to 116, for a total of 862 members. As of February 29, 2024, only 718 of those have renewed their dues, which is 83.29%. What's the problem? For some reason Locales V-582 and V-1324 are showing no renewals. That is 41 of the 147 that we are short. Many of the other Locals are close to 100%, but this isn't hand grenades, and it isn't horseshoes, so close doesn't count.

V-44, V-62, V-327, V-390, and V-1210 are at 100% or above. V-1210 is in the lead with 110%. If your Locale isn't at 100% or above, reach out to the Voyageurs that have not renewed yet.

Any Voyageurs whose dues are not current have no privileges.

Greetings from the Grande du Minnesota Convention Committee. This year's Grand Promenade will be held in Hutchinson MN on July 19-21, 2024.

Voiture 414 from Hutchinson is the host. It will be held at the Days Inn. Please start reserving your rooms now, there is only a block of 25 rooms reserved, so act early and save some money. The phone number for the Hotel is 833-344-0567. We hope to see everyone there.

The grand Convention Committee is already at work scheduling the fall Cheminot Meeting in October.

We are actively looking for Locales to host Grand Mid-Winter and Grand Promenade in 2025. It

is not difficult to do, and your Locale could make a few bucks in the process.

Please contact the Grand Correspondant for more information.

It is a little out of our umbrella, but we would like everyone to know that registration is up on the Nationale website for Promenade Nationale. There is a code listed there for when you reserve your rooms. This is being held in Sandusky OH again this year.

Grande du Minnesota always has a good turnout, but we could always do better!!

### 2024-2025 Grande du Minnesota Officer Endorsements Received

<b>Cheminot Nationale</b> Gary Miller, V-327	<b>Grand Cheminots and</b> <b>Sous:</b>	Sous:  6th District Cheminot
<b>Sous Cheminot Nationale</b> Joe Brown, Sr., V-327	1st District Cheminot Richard Skillestad, V-327 Sous: Mark Maloney, V-327	Sous:
<b>Grand Chef de Gare</b> Jerry Terhaar, V-806	2nd District Cheminot Michael Schaffer, V-281 Sous: James Olson, V-281	7th District Cheminot  Sous:
<b>Grand Chef de Train</b>		8th District Cheminot Jerry Trast, V-806 Sous: Paul Koivisto, V-806
<b>Grand Sous Chef de Train (2)</b>	3rd District Cheminot	
<b>Grand Commissaire Intendant</b> Chuck Kruger, V-327	Sous:  4th District Cheminot	9th District Cheminot
<b>Grand Garde de la Porte</b>	Sous:	Sous:  10th District Cheminot
<b>Grand Lampiste</b> Patricia Fields, V-281	5th District Cheminot	Sous:

CHEMINOT NATIONALE JOE BROWN, SR.

Greetings Grande du Minnesota:

At the Mid-Winter in Sauk Rapids on February 24, I passed out a packet containing the Voiture Locale consolidated report forms for the various 40&8 programs. If you had someone from your Voiture attending the Mid-Winter, they received the packet for your Voiture. I will be mailing out the packets to those Voitures that were not in attendance. Each Voiture should fill out these forms and send them to the respective Grande du Minnesota Directeur by July 1st . Each form has the contact information for the Grande du Minnesota Directeur which includes their mailing address, email address, and phone number.

The Grande du Minnesota Directeur for each program sums up the information from each Voiture and includes it on the Grande du Minnesota Consolidated report for their program and submits the form to the Nationale Directeur for their program by July 15. Also, the Grande du Minnesota Directeur selects the Voiture Locale with the best/outstanding report and sends their consolidated report with the Grande du Minnesota Consolidated Report for a chance to receive an award at Nationale for the Best Voiture.

Thank you for your service and take care:

Joe P Brown Sr

Cheminot Nationale

Email: [Brown49tex@charter.net](mailto:Brown49tex@charter.net)

Phone Cell: (507) 990-1347

Voiture Locale	Number	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	2023 YEAR END TOTAL	% OF QUOTA	SHORT/OVER
Washington	33	15	13	15	86.67%	-2
Ramsey	39	21	19	24	79.17%	-5
Washington	44	25	28	28	100.00%	0
Hennepin	45	22	20	22	90.91%	-2
Lac qui Parle	62	5	28	28	100.00%	0
Blue Earth	281	57	59	61	96.72%	-2
Olmsted	327	46	52	50	104.00%	2
Anoka	390	16	17	17	100.00%	0
Mcleod	414	112	110	116	94.83%	-6
Stearns	415	28	24	45	53.33%	-21
Winona	580	19	18	20	90.00%	-2
Beltrami	582	18	0	18	0.00%	-18
Saint Louis	634	20	19	20	95.00%	-1
Cass	714	9	8	9	88.89%	-1
Polk	734	7	4	7	57.14%	-3
Pennington	737	24	20	25	80.00%	-5
Crow Wing	754	22	19	22	86.36%	-3
Polk	772	9	8	9	88.89%	-1
Washington	791	45	40	45	88.89%	-5
Itasca	806	33	26	33	78.79%	-7
Ramsey	838	21	18	21	85.71%	-3
Freeborn	1210	9	11	10	110.00%	1
Hennepin	1281	31	34	44	77.27%	-10
Rice	1324	16	0	23	0.00%	-23
Morrison	1329	43	42	46	91.30%	-4
Kandiyohi	1413	18	17	21	80.95%	-4
Roseau	1436	39	36	39	92.31%	-3
Dakota	1457	44	28	44	63.64%	-16
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>83.29%</b>	<b>-144</b>

Cabane	2023	2024 Renewals	New	Transfers	2024 Reported	Percent
327	11	6	0	0	6	54.55%
390	10	10	3	0	13	130.00%
415	42	41	1	0	42	100.00%
806	12	12	0	0	12	100.00%
1281	24	21	0	0	21	87.50%
Totals	99	90	4	0	94	94.94%

**Hello Voyageurs!**

The Special Awards program consists of city/town, hero, voyageur and law officer of the year. Grande du Minnesota should have at least 1 of these 4. If you do, submit the nomination form that can be found on the national website to: Richard Skillestad, Box 161, Eyota, MN 55943 or call 507-250-5329. You can also email [richardH33@embarqmail.com](mailto:richardH33@embarqmail.com).

I should have all nominations by June 1 to look over and forward to Nationale by July 1, 2024.

We were lucky last year because Voiture 281 had a Voyageur of the Year. He was awarded the Grande du Minnesota Voyageur of the Year and Nationale Voyageur of the Year at Promenade Nationale in Sandusky, Ohio. Thank you Voiture 281! See! It can happen!

So let's get to work on this project!

Richard Skillestad, Grand Special Awards Directeur